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Daily Report

East Asia

FBIS-EAS-90-020
Tuesday
30 January 1990

Daily Report
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Japan

Prime Minister Welcomes Bush Budget Plan

OW3001034190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0257 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 30 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Tuesday welcomed the 1.2 trillion dollar budget plan for fiscal 1991 unveiled by U.S. President George Bush, saying it demonstrates U.S. "enthusiasm" for reducing its budget deficit.

The budget plan "shows an enthusiastic attitude for reducing the budget deficit in accordance with the Gramm-Rudman Law," Kaifu told reporters.

Bush's proposal calls for reducing the U.S. deficit to 63.1 billion dollars, slightly lower than the 64 billion dollars required by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget-balancing law. The plan was sent to Congress on Monday for consideration by the Democratic-controlled legislature.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Mayumi Moriyama praised the budget plan, noting that Japan and other countries have requested the United States to reduce its deficit. "We appreciate the effort the United States has made," the top government spokeswoman told a regularly scheduled news conference.

Planned U.S. Budget Deficit Cut Analyzed

OW2901145690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1444 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 29 KYODO—A senior Finance Ministry official on Monday expressed his hope that a cut in the U.S. federal deficit projected in President George Bush's budget, submitted earlier in the day, will improve the U.S. trade balance with Japan.

The official, who declined to be named, said a reduced U.S. Budget deficit could curb domestic demand and help the U.S. redress its huge trade deficit with Japan.

The budget sent by the President to Congress predicts a federal deficit for fiscal 1991 starting October 1 of 63.1 billion dollars, slightly lower than the 64 billion dollars required by the Gramm-Rudman-Hollings budget-balancing law. The budget reflects the President's determination to reduce the U.S. trade deficit, the official said. He also said that Bush's budget proposal for a tax-free family savings account is also aimed at restraining consumption in the U.S. It is also a response to the advice of other industrialized democracies that the U.S. will take steps to curb domestic demand, he said. These countries and the U.S. have been coordinating economic policies.

Referring to the budget projection of 3.3 percent growth in the U.S. economy in fiscal 1991, the official said it reflects the belief that a recession in fiscal 1991 is not anticipated by the executive branch.

Spokesman Expects U.S. To Keep Troops in Asia

OW3001123390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1213 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 30 KYODO—Japan expects the United States to retain its forward deployment strategy in the Asia-Pacific region despite defense cuts announced by Washington, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

"It is our understanding that the U.S. military commitment to the Asia and Pacific region is going to remain unchanged," said spokesman Taizo Watanabe in a meeting with foreign correspondents.

Watanabe was reacting to U.S. announcements of a 2.6 percent defense budget cut for fiscal 1991 and a scale-down in the U.S. military presence in South Korea, as well as reports of a possible cutback of military forces stationed in Japan.

Watanabe said Japan places its faith in repeated declarations by top U.S. officials that the United States intends "to maintain a strong forward deployment preparedness."

He echoed remarks made earlier in the day by Defense Agency Director General Juro Matsumoto that Japan has received no notification from the U.S. concerning reported plans for a partial cut in U.S. forces based in Okinawa and Iwakuni, Yamaguchi Prefecture.

"We have never heard of any plan on the part of the United States to withdraw its troops from any bases in Japan," he said.

U.S. military officials in Okinawa, however, estimated a savings of 100 million dollars if two U.S. air squadrons on the southern island were disbanded and another reduced in size. The officials also announced the cancellation of plans to shift a squadron of aircraft to Okinawa from the Philippines and will disband it instead.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama commented Tuesday morning that he will take up the matter of possible reductions in Japan during U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney's upcoming visit to Tokyo, reportedly set for February 19-20.

Watanabe said that in view of the existing military situation surrounding Japan, there is no need for either a scale-down in the U.S. military presence in Japan or a curtailing of Japan's military buildup. Japan continues to assure its national security through close defense ties with the U.S. and through its own efforts "to maintain and develop self-defense capability," he said.

Denying that Japan is out of step with the East-West trend toward detente, Watanabe said, "The situation in Europe is one thing and the situation in the Asia and Pacific region is another."

He specifically cited what he said was a qualitative buildup in Soviet military forces in the region and said, "We have no plans of changing our current preparedness."

Asked how Japan would react to a change in the U.S. naval presence in the Philippines, Watanabe would only say that Japan is "very much concerned about the U.S. military commitment to the Asia and Pacific region as a whole."

"We have been reassured again and again that their position is not changed... So we are not worried," he said.

Official on Impact of U.S. ROK Base Closings

OW3001031190 Tokyo KYODO in English 0251 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 30 KYODO—Government spokeswoman Mayumi Moriyama said Tuesday the U.S. closure of three military bases in South Korea will not weaken the defense of Japan or the region.

"I think the United States will continue to maintain the appropriate level of military presence in the Asia-Pacific region," Chief Cabinet Secretary Moriyama told a news conference. "I don't think this will have an immediate impact on Japan, but we won't know until the changes take place," she said.

The South Korean Defense Ministry announced Monday the U.S. will withdraw 2,000 noncombatant personnel from South Korea by July 1992, and close three of five Air Force bases. The U.S. currently has 40,000 troops stationed in South Korea. South Korean authorities said the reduction would not affect the country's combat readiness.

The U.S. is also considering a reorganization of U.S. Forces in Asia because of decreasing East-West tensions, as well as domestic pressure to cut defense spending, according to U.S. sources. Options under consideration include transferring some troops in South Korea to Japan, and a partial withdrawal of Marines stationed in Japan, the sources said.

Defense Chief Rejects Military Budget Cuts

OW3001080290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0743 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 30 KYODO—Defense Agency Director General Juro Matsumoto on Tuesday rejected the need for Japanese defense cuts following the announcement Monday of U.S. reductions in military spending. But the defense chief characterized the 2.6 percent U.S. defense budget cut as a "turning point" in the process of detente and disarmament.

Matsumoto, speaking at a press conference, also said he had received no notice of any U.S. plans to withdraw some of its forces stationed in southern Japan.

The U.S. is studying plans for a partial withdrawal of troops based in Okinawa and Iwakuni, Yamaguchi Prefecture, reliable sources said late last week.

U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney announced in Washington on Monday the closure of three minor air bases in South Korea but said he was not aware of any planned cuts in Japan.

U.S. military officials in Okinawa announced Tuesday the cancellation of the planned shift of a squadron from U.S. bases in the Philippines, saying the unit would be disbanded instead.

The reported disbanding of two other squadrons and reductions in another now in Okinawa will cut costs by an estimated 100 million dollars.

In rejecting any Japanese defense cuts, Matsumoto said U.S. military strength was the result of a long history of U.S. buildup. Japan, he said, had just reached the 4 trillion yen level in its 1990 defense budget. "It's not like the U.S. cutback," he said.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama, commenting the same day, said he would take up the matter of possible reductions in U.S. forces here in talks with Cheney next month. The defense secretary is expected to arrive for a two-day visit to Japan on February 19.

Dates for an expected meeting between Nakayama and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker have yet to be announced, but talks are likely sometime after February 20, when Nakayama visits New York to participate in a United Nations session on narcotics.

Okinawan Village Protests Harrier Crash

OW3001010190 Naha OKINAWA TIMES in Japanese 29 Jan 90 Evening Edition p 1

[Text] Ie—In connection with the U.S. Marine Corps Harrier crash off Iheya Island on 26 January, the Ie Village Assembly (Chairman Bunshi Oshiro and 14 members) held an extraordinary session on the morning of 29 January and unanimously adopted a "statement protesting the Harrier crash and calling for the suspension of exercises on Ie Island."

At the assembly session, Ie Village Mayor Seitoku Shimabukuro described the crash and expressed his regret over the accident. He said that "since the first condition for our approval of Harrier exercises on our island was safety, the crash off Iheya Island is most regrettable."

The assembly made the following points in its statement: 1) although the crash took place in the sea, it cannot be tolerated; 2) if a crash occurs during exercises, it might result in a disaster; and 3) measures should be taken to ensure safety and to prevent the recurrence of a similar crash, and the cause of the crash should be investigated. Harrier exercises should be suspended until appropriate measures are taken.

The assembly plans to have its members call at the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau on the afternoon of the same day to submit their statement.

Concerning requests submitted by a group of Nishizaki District leaders opposed to Harriers that Harrier exercises be suspended and the Harrier pad be immediately withdrawn, the assembly unanimously adopted a request for the suspension of exercises. However, on the request for immediate withdrawal of the Harrier pad, the assembly decided to set it aside for future deliberation as an additional agenda item.

The statement will be addressed to the Okinawa prefectural governor, the general director of the Naha Defense Facilities Administration Bureau, and the U.S. Marine Corps commander on Okinawa.

Matsunaga Urges Japan To Cooperate With U.S.

OW2901135090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0645 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 29 KYODO—Japan's former Ambassador to the United States Nobuo Matsunaga called on the Japanese Government Monday to expand its cooperation with the U.S. in helping solve global concerns.

Matsunaga, in a lecture sponsored by KYODO NEWS SERVICE, said cooperating with the U.S. in environmental issues, assisting in Eastern European reforms and helping to settle the Kampuchean conflict will serve to oil the wheels of the strained bilateral relations.

Matsunaga, who ended his nearly five-year service as the top Japanese diplomat in Washington last November, strongly urged the Japanese Government to show some kind of progress in the Japan-U.S. Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) talks by this spring. Otherwise the U.S. Government will be pressured by Congress to invoke the so-called Super 301 provision of the 1988 Omnibus Trade Law, he said.

Matsunaga stressed the need for Japan to play a greater role and take responsibility proportionate to its international stature in order to improve the negative image that other nations have of Japan. Matsunaga called for extending Japanese support for embattled Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroyka reform policies. But he said Japan must maintain its own basic policy on security, adding that the basic Soviet diplomatic policies remain unchanged toward Asia and the Pacific region in contrast to its softening toward Europe.

Kaifu Seeks To Confirm Unity of LDP Factions

OW3001051090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0345 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 30 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu will meet factional leaders of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) on Wednesday and Thursday, party sources said Tuesday. Kaifu will hold separate talks with the leaders before official campaigning for the February 18 general election starts Saturday.

In the talks, Kaifu will confirm all-party unity for the general election and exchange views on the election situation, the sources said. They said Kaifu will meet former Deputy Prime Minister Shin Kanemaru and former LDP Secretary General Shintaro Abe on Wednesday and former Foreign Minister Yoshio Sakurauchi, former Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa, and former LDP Vice President Susumu Nikaido on Thursday.

Police Alerted for Election Violations

OW2901093590 Tokyo KYODO in English 0756 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 29 KYODO—The head of the National Police agency called for police officers to be on the alert for violations of election rules Monday and also to be vigilant against acts of terrorism during the campaign for the House of Representatives election on February 18.

The agency's commissioner general, Akio Kanazawa, told a meeting of prefectural police chiefs that tough competition is expected in the campaign. Political analysts say the election will set the direction for Japanese politics into the 1990s amid rapid changes both domestically and on the international scene.

Police said they had issued 3,849 warnings against suspected illegal campaigning as of Wednesday, 10 days prior to the official start of the election campaign. This is 1.8 times as many as at the same stage in the 1986 election.

Most of the alleged violations to date have been requested to vote for particular candidates in posters and speeches and the sending of gifts, they said.

Kanazawa also urged police to forestall acts of terrorism and other actions aimed at blocking campaign activities. He referred specifically to the shooting of Nagasaki Mayor Hitoshi Motoshima on January 18 by a rightist. The mayor had received threats after a speech in which he referred to the late Emperor Showa's responsibility for Japan's involvement in World War II.

The Lower House was dissolved on January 24.

EPA Says Economy Continues To Expand

OW3001075290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0717 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 30 KYODO—Japan's economy is continuing to expand despite poor showings by the leading and coincident (present) economic indicators for November, which fell below the critical "boom-or-bust" line for the first time in two months, the Economic planning Agency (EPA) said Tuesday.

The leading indicator for November fell below the "boom-or-bust" line of 50 percent to stand at 45.5 percent, compared with 72.7 percent in October and 46.2 percent in September.

The EPA considers a figure of below 50 percent a sign of an economic slowdown, at least in the several months ahead. The leading indicator consists of 13 components, such as industrial inventories and new orders for machinery.

An agency economist attributed the fall in the leading indicator to relatively high levels of inventories of goods and raw materials and to sluggish shipments of durable goods.

"Basically, Japan's economy is expanding, though we will have to see other economic indicators in 1990 to determine its future course," the economist said. The leading indicator for December is also likely to fall below the "boom-or-bust" line, due mainly to weak industrial production by manufacturers, he said.

Meanwhile, the 11-component coincident index, which shows the current state of the country's economy, was 45.0 percent in November, compared with 55.0 percent in October and 27.3 percent in September.

The indices for production and consumption of raw materials in the manufacturing sector, two key components of the coincident index, turned lower in November.

The lagging index, which reflects the economic trend in months immediately past, peaked at 100 percent in a sharp turnaround from 50 percent in October and 37.5 percent in September.

Ministry To Monitor Real Estate Financing

OW2901152990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1350 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 29 KYODO—The Finance Ministry will constantly monitor bank loans for land deals from March in a determined bid to stem the rapid surge in land prices, ministry sources said Monday. If loans are found to be for speculative land deals, banks involved will be asked to withdraw the loans, they said.

The ministry has decided on constant monitoring—the first on loans for land transactions—because its ongoing bank-by-bank investigations, scheduled to end next month, are likely to have only a temporary effect on land financing.

Last October, the ministry asked financial institutions in writing to refrain from financing speculative land deals, and also started investigations on their land-related loans. The land price spiral, however, did not stop. Land prices throughout the country, released last January by the National Tax Administration Agency as a basis for tax assessment, showed an average 28.7 percent rise from the previous year. Particularly big gains of over 50 percent were seen in provincial cities like Maebashi, Nagano and Nara.

The ministry will also investigate bank loans to the so-called "nonbank banking" firms, such as consumer credit and credit card companies, which it suspects are used to finance speculative land deals.

The outstanding balance of real estate-related bank loans totaled 45.35 trillion yen as of the end of last October, up 13.7 percent from a year before.

Further on Brazilian President-Elect's Visit

Meets Kaifu, Seeks More Aid

OW2901041990 Tokyo KYODO in English 0319 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 29 KYODO—Brazilian President-Elect Fernando Collor de Mello welcomed Japan's financial assistance to Eastern Europe on Monday, and urged Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to also increase economic aid to Latin America, a Foreign Ministry official said.

"We understand and support Japan's assistance to Eastern Europe," Collor de Mello was quoted as saying. "In the future we hope that Japan will increase its investment and other kinds of assistance to Brazil and Latin America," he said.

The president-elect arrived in Japan on Sunday on a trip that will also take him to the United States, the Soviet Union, and Europe prior to assuming the presidency on March 15.

He assured Kaifu in the 25-minute meeting that Brazil has no intention of interrupting payments to the International Monetary Fund (IMF). "Brazil will not take any unilateral moves vis-a-vis the IMF," Collor de Mello said.

Kaifu reaffirmed Japan's continued cooperation with Brazil, and said Japan plans to contribute to international stability by cooperating with the United States and Europe, the official said.

Prior to his departure for Moscow on Tuesday Collor de Mello, 40, is to meet Emperor Akihito, Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, and business leaders.

Collor de Mello, who takes over from President Jose Sarney, will be the first president to take office in Brazil after being directly elected in 29 years.

Comments on Economic Growth

OW2901153290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1347 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 29 KYODO—Brazilian President-Elect Fernando Collor de Mello on Monday said his government would give priority primarily to boosting the country's economic growth, and then to paying off its huge foreign debt.

Collor de Mello also said he plans to introduce a new framework for payment of the debt in accordance with the growth rate of the country's gross national product.

He told reporters at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo that his new government must tackle the pending issues of runaway inflation, currently at 120 percent per annum, and accumulated foreign liabilities totaling about 120 billion dollars, and he urged Japan to help reconstruct Brazil's economy.

Collor de Mello, 40, who is on a three-day visit to Japan through Tuesday, was elected president last December in a runoff in the first direct presidential election in 29 years in Brazil. He will assume the presidency on March 15, succeeding Jose Sarney. His visit to Japan is part of a global trip to the United states, the Soviet Union and European countries prior to taking up his presidential duties.

Touching on development of the tropical rain forests in the Amazon, Collor de Mello stressed the need for Japanese technical cooperation with Brazil to prevent such natural resources from being destroyed.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told Collor de Mello in a meeting held Monday morning that Japan would give more economic aid to Brazil.

Meets With Emperor Akihito

OW2901130090 Tokyo KYODO in English 0904 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 29 KYODO - Brazilian President-Elect Fernando Collor de Mello met with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at the Imperial Palace on Monday, a palace spokesman said.

Welcomed at the Take-no-ma room in the palace, Collor de Mello talked with the royal couple for 30 minutes.

Collor de Mello has been in Japan since Sunday for a three-day visit before taking up his presidential duties on March 15.

Leaves for USSR

OW3001080790 Tokyo KYODO in English 0746 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 30 KYODO—Brazil's President-Elect Alfonso collor de Mello left Tokyo on Tuesday for Moscow, concluding a three-day visit to Japan.

Collor met Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and Emperor Akihito on Monday.

Saudi Petroleum Minister Meets With Kaifu

OW2601115990 Tokyo KYODO in English 1014 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 26 KYODO—Saudi Arabia's petroleum minister told Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu Friday that his country hopes to establish a joint venture with Japan for refining and distributing petroleum products, a Foreign Ministry official said. Shaykh Hisham Muhyi al-Din-Nazir made the request in a 20 minute meeting with Kaifu, the official said. Nazir was quoted as telling Kaifu that his proposal would help stabilize supply for Japan, and would in the interest of both countries.

In the future Saudi Arabia hopes to become Japan's largest single supplier of petroleum, Nazir was quoted as saying. Saudi Arabia provided Japan with 550,000 barrels of oil per day in 1988, making it Japan's second largest supplier after the United Arab Emirates, which exported 650,000 barrels per day that year.

The minister of petroleum and mineral resources delivered a message from King Fahd calling for closer communications between his country, Japan, the United States and Europe in order to cooperate for world peace. Kaifu extended an invitation to the Saudi Arabian king to visit Japan, according to the official.

In a separate meeting, Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama requested early arrangements for a nominally regular ministerial meeting, last held in 1986. Saudi Arabia had previously expressed interest in holding the sixth round of talks between related ministers.

Nazir arrived here Thursday on a week-long visit for discussions with government officials and business executives. He is to meet with International Trade and Industry Minister Hikaru Matsunaga Tuesday.

Extension of Food Aid to Poland Planned

OW2901112190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1053 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Tokyo, Jan. 29 KYODO—Japan will extend a grant of 1.32 billion yen in food assistance to Poland later this week, Foreign Ministry officials said Monday.

The food assistance, in the form of wheat to be purchased from Hungary and the United States, will be extended to the Polish government through the United Nations World Food Program (WFP), officials said.

Separate implementation agreements with both Warsaw and the WFP are due to be concluded later this week, they said. The food assistance follows Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's announcement in Berlin earlier this month that Japan will provide a total of 25 million dollars in food assistance to Poland.

Officials said the upcoming 1.32 billion yen package comprises the first portion of Kaifu's pledge.

The total commitment will be fulfilled when the remaining 2.08 billion yen in food aid is released following the Diet's passage of the government's supplementary budget expected after general elections next month, they said.

In line with Japan's goal to assist Hungary's economic development, officials said Japan has agreed with the WFP that as much of the wheat as possible be procured from that country, depending on availability, with the remaining portion acquired from the United States.

The aid is to help Poland cope with food shortages stemming from low agricultural productivity and higher prices as a result of the liberalization of the country's economy.

Poland, which is attempting to shift to a market economy, lifted controls on food prices in August, triggering rampant inflation in the prices of foodstuffs as the country gears for a harsh winter.

North Korea

Sources Denounce 'Team Spirit' Military Exercise

Chondoist Chongu Party

SK2601152890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1507 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 26 (KCNA)—Chong Sin-hyok, chairman of the Central Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party, published a statement today, in which he, in the name of the entire members of his party and Chondoists, denounces the scheme of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets to stage "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises. The South Korean authorities should give up this nuclear war game and accept with sincerity our new proposal for peaceful reunification, he demands.

He says:

The No Tae-u clique is shameless enough to declare that the scale of the joint military exercises will be "reduced" for the relaxation of tension on the Korean peninsula and North-South talks, while answering our sincere efforts for peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification with the extremely provocative war manoeuvres. We dismiss this as a ridiculous advertisement not worth even a passing note.

The clumsy farce of the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u clique in describing the expansion and strengthening of the military exercises as "reduction" indicates that they can no longer conceal the fact that the exercises practically obstruct the North-South dialogue and relaxation of tension.

Raising a frantic row of anti-communist confrontation under the pretext of fictitious "threat from the North", the No Tae-u group is harshly suppressing the patriotic and democratic forces of South Korea which call for unity with the North and reunification by invoking the "National Security Law", the anti-reunification fascist law, and committed the thrice-cursed act of imposing heavy penalties upon Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, woman student Yim Su-kyong and father Mun Kyu-hyon who visited Pyongyang and went back after making contributions to the cause of national reunification.

The recent merger of three parties is part of the moves of the No Tae-u group to create "two Koreas" by rallying the anti-communist right-wing forces in South Korea and facing us in confrontation.

If the U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u group truly have the least interest in North-South dialogue and relaxation of tension, they must immediately give up the plan of the provocative "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises and withdraw U.S. forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea, Chong Sin-hyok stressed.

'Aerial War Game' Scored

SK2701091090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0837 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 27 (KCNA)—The aerial war game now under way in South Korea is a direct offspring of the U.S. imperialists' strategy of nuclear preemptive strike and the prelude to the "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercises, says NODONG SINMUN today in a commentary.

The news analyst says:

Recently, Guam-based U.S. strategic bombers made an emergency movement to Okinawa, Japan.

On January 19, formations of large transport planes carried combat equipment of U.S. Air Fforce units from overseas aggressive bases to South Korea. Coinciding with this, the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are frantically staging aerial exercises against the northern half of Korea in the sky over South Korea.

Such moves indicate that the U.S. Air Force will become a principal preemptive strike force in the "Team Spirit-90".

The aerial war games going on in South Korea are an important lever in putting the U.S. nuclear preemptive strike strategy into effect.

The "Team Spirit" war game annually staged by the U.S. imperialists in South Korea is participated in by 2,000 planes of all types.

Foreign reports say that 2,600 strategic and tactical planes at the U.S. Air Force bases in the Asia-Pacific region are kept ready for emergency sorties. This tells that an enormous strength of the U.S. Air Force will be hurled into the "Team Spirit" planned for this year.

The U.S. imperialists have already mapped out war plans for a nuclear preemptive strike on the Korean peninsula including the "nine-day short-term hard strike strategy", "five-day war strategy" and "three-day nuclear war emergency plan".

They have enlisted their strategic and tactical means of the Air Force including the "B-52" strategic bombers, nuclear-capable fighter-bombers and electronic jamming planes as shock brigades in carrying such plans into practice.

By so doing, they intend to quickly end the "second Korean war" and attack other socialist countries.

All these facts show that the U.S. imperialists scheme to ignite a nuclear war on the Korean peninsula at any cost.

DFRF Figure on Exercise

SK2901052690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0504 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 29 (KCNA)—If they truly want to evade international isolation, the U.S. imperialists must not employ clumsy trickery but cancel at once the plan of the "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercises and get out of South Korea without delay, taking along their aggression forces and nuclear weapons.

So said Yu Ho-chun, director of the Secretariat of the Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland, in his statement on January 28.

Recalling that the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppet clique scheme to stage the "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercises at a time when the entire Korean people in the North and the South and overseas are filled with the firm faith and determination to achieve the reunification of the country in the 1990s at any cost in hearty response to the new reunification proposal advanced by the great leader comrade Kim Il-song in his new year address, he said:

This scheme dampens the ardent desire of the nation for reunification and tramples upon the desire of the world peaceloving people for detente and peace.

The announcement of the "Team Spirit-90" plan is a downright challenge to the sincere efforts of the entire Korean people to open a phase of relaxation of tensions and peace, national unity and reunification on the Korean peninsula and an unpardonable treachery going against the trend of history.

The U.S. imperialists intend to stage also this year the "Team Spirit" war game they have held every year, urged by the criminal purpose to heigthen the tensions on the Korean peninsula, obstruct its reunification, threaten the South Korean people who aspire after independence, democracy and reunification, maintain their colonial military fascist rule over South Korea and, furthermore, find a chance to invade the Northern half of Korea.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean rulers finally start the "Team Spirit-90" war game in defiance of our repeated warnings, they will face a fiercer denunciation at home and abroad and be held fully responsible for all the consequences arising therefrom.

GFTUK Denounces Exercise

SK2901114190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1014 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 29 (KCNA)—Won Tong-ku, chairman of the Central Committee of the General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea (GFTUK), made public a statement Monday, bittery denouncing, in the name of the entire trade union members, the plan to stage adventurous "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises announced by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets as an open challenge to the unanimous aspiration and desire of the entire Korean people and the world peaceloving people for an early realisation of the DPRK's new reunification proposal.

He said:

The U.S. imperialists who revealed their true color as atrocious aggressors and warmaniacs through their aggression on Panama, decided to stage the "Team Spirit" joint war game this year, too, on the Korean peninsula and thus revealed more undisguisedly to the world people their ulterior intention to dominate the world by brandishing nuclear weapons.

There is no change either in the aggressive nature of the U.S. imperialists or in the hateful treacherous nature of the South Korean puppets who seek to prolong their remaining days by relying on the former.

The South Korean puppets seek confrontation and war, not dialogue and peace, and attempt to put down ever growing sentiments for reunification by going off into war hysteria with the backing of the U.S. imperialist bellicose elements.

This cannot be construed otherwise than an open declaration of the traitor No Tae-u at home and abroad that he would not honestly approach the North-South dialogue and not seek reunification in the 1990's either.

[Word indistinct] strongly demand that the United States unconditionally and immediately cancel the plan to stage the "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises that increase tension on the Korean peninsula and threaten North-South dialogue and withdraw without delay its troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea.

Commentary on Ending Exercise

SK3001085590 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1150 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Commentary by station commentator Kim Kyong-pok: "Alarming Military Moves"]

[Text] The U.S. imperialist aggressors are straining the situation on the Korean peninsula to an extreme point by daily staging preliminary war exercises, with the approach of the provocative "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercise.

According to military sources, the Pacific Air Force Command of the U.S. imperialist aggressors on 27 January dragged eight nuclear-loaded F-16 fighter-bombers into South Korea from their overseas aggressive bases, including Japan, in order to further promote their actual fighting capabilities, while staging the criminal "Team Spirit-90" war exercise. Then the U.S. imperialist aggressors conducted a nuclear offensive strike exercise simulating a northward invasion.

Prior to this, on 26 January, the U.S. imperialists introduced into South Korea from their aggressive overseas bases many F-16 fighter-bomber wings, some 20 A-4, A-5 and A-6 attack planes, refueling planes, AWACS and even vertical take-off-and-landing aircraft. Thus, they viciously staged a frantic aerial war exercise.

At the same time, the U.S. imperialists transported the U.S. imperialist troops and operational equipment to South Korea from their overseas aggressive bases in the Pacific region to deploy them for the "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercise by mobilizing C-130 and C-141 transport aircraft wings.

The number of troops of the aggressive army which the U.S. imperialists dragged into South Korea from overseas bases in a short period of time since they announced the "Team Spirit-90" war exercise plan reaches at least several thousands.

Such a military move is an alarming development which aggravates tension on the Korean peninsula and is an intolerable crime.

As is known, the U.S. imperialists and the puppets babbled that the "Team Spirit-90" war exercise will begin 14 March when they announced the plan. However, this was a preposterous trick to deceive the people at home and abroad.

The nuclear aerial strike exercise, called a preliminary war, and the move of troops show that the "Team Spirit-90" war exercise, in actuality, has begun and its scale is not reduced.

The "Team Spirit-90" joint military exercise, being staged by mobilizing enormous numbers of troops and all sorts of the most modern war means including carriers and nuclear weapons—with which an independent war could be carried out—is a test nuclear war and preliminary war designed to launch a surprise attack on the northern half of the Republic through a preemptive nuclear strike.

That the U.S. imperialists are staging a aerial nuclear strike exercise every day by dragging nuclear-loaded planes and attack planes from aggressive overseas bases, even down to the level of mobilization of the troops, more clearly shows the aggressive and offensive nature of this exercise.

Furthermore, what should not be overlooked is that in an interview with ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japan, the commander of the U.S. Seventh Fleet undisguisedly raved that there is the possibility of a dispute on the Korean peninsula, and thus deployment of fleets around the Korean peninsula are to a certain extent necessary. His bellicose remarks made just before the "Team Spirit-90" war exercise, which will be staged in full scale with the entire area of South Korea as its stage, show that the U.S. imperialists, just as in Panama, may provoke a northward aggressive war at any moment while staging a large-scale military exercise in South Korea.

The U.S. imperialists describe the "Team Spirit-90" war exercise as defensive training. This is indeed a shameless remark. At a time when voices ring out from many parts of the world, urging the immediate suspension of the "Team Spirit-90" war exercise—which strains the situation—voices that urge peace on the Korean peninsula and Korea's reunification, they have further strengthened the northward war preparation maneuvers. This is indeed a vicious challenge to such voices.

The U.S. imperialists' war maneuvers are bringing the situation on the Korean peninsula, which has already been strained, to the brink of war.

The people of the world want to live happily in a peaceful world, free from aggression and war and free from domination and subjugation. They want to see an end to the era of the cold war and confrontation. The U.S. imperialists should discontinue adventurous war maneuvers that run counter to the trends of the times and the aspirations of the people, and should immediately withdraw from South Korea, taking along all nuclear weapons and aggressor forces.

If the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets finally stage the "Team Spirit-90" war exercise in defiance of our repeated warnings, the rascals will be held totally responsible for all consequences arising therefrom.

NODONG SINMUN on Maneuvers

SK3001050490 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0434 GMT 30 Jan 90

["Dangerous War Gamble of Strength-Maniacs"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 30 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists made public the plan for the "Team Spirit 90" joint manoeuvres and are staging aerial exercises in succession after we put forward the new proposal to remove the barrier of division and ensure free travel and open all their doors between the North and the South. Denouncing this as an open challenge to the new reunification proposal of ours, a news analyst of NODONG SINMUN today says:

With the demonstration of strength the U.S. imperialists intend to throw a wet blanket over the desire of our nation for reunification, drop a check-bar on the way of

North-South dialogue, build higher the barrier of division and, furthermore, lead the situation to the brink of war and gratify their wild ambition to invade the North.

The "Team Spirit 90" is a graphic expression of the U.S. imperialists' policy of strength, which is incompatible with peace.

If they ignite a war against the North, with more than 1,000 pieces of nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea and nuclear arms hurled into the "Team Spirit" joint manoeuvres, it will be a nuclear war and its flames will immediately spread beyond the boundary of Korea. Then the people of Asia and the rest of the world, to say nothing of the Korean nation, will fall victims to a nuclear holocaust.

If the cold war is to be brought to an end and peace achieved on the globe, tensions must be eased in all regions, first of all in the most dangerous area like the Korean peninsula where a war may break out any moment.

If the U.S. imperialists stage the "Team Spirit 90" war game, they will face bitterer denunciation and accusations of the Korean and the world people.

The U.S. imperialists must give up the "Team Spirit" exercises and the anachronistic policy of strength in Korea.

U.S. Intentions Scored

SK3001042490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0439 GMT 30 Jan 90

["Ulterior Intention of Aggressor"—KCNA Headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 30 (KCNA)—The U.S. Seventh Fleet Commander Henry Mauz at a recent interview with a reporter of the Japanese newspaper ASAHI SHIMBUN contended that "it is necessary to deploy a U.S. armada in the surroundings of the Korean peninsula", saying "a dispute may occur on the Korean peninsula". Commenting on this, a news analyst of MINJU CHOSON Tuesday says:

His utterances fully revealed the ulterior intention of the U.S. imperialists to lead the tension to the extreme pitch of strain on the Korean peninsula and ignite a war of aggression any moment.

While speaking about "peace" and "detente" in other areas, the U.S. imperialists are working desperately to destroy peace and unleash a war in the Asia-Pacific region, on the Korean peninsula in particular.

The "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises are most adventurous and dangerous play with fire ever known either in view of their aggressive content and criminal nature.

The remarks of Mauz coinciding with this war game that a dispute may break out on the Korean peninsula, arouse a high vigilance of the people.

It is preposterous for those who coil up tension on the Korean peninsula to preach the deployment of a U.S. armada in the surroundings of the Korean peninsula under this pretext, picking a quarrel with us who put forward a new peace proposal to create an epochal phase for the solution of the Korean question and make every effort possible for its realisation.

With no base method can the U.S. imperialists justify the deployment of their aggression forces in and around South Korea or evade their obligation to withdraw their forces from there.

Youth League Head Demands End

SK3001105890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1027 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 30 (KCNA)—If the South Korean authorities truly intend to remove the barrier of division and open the road to reunification, they must give up the projected "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, pull down the concrete wall without delay and choose to realize free travel and complete opening between the North and the South, said Choe Yong-hae, chairman of the Central Committee of the League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea, in his statement issued to the press today.

Branding the "Team Spirit 90" plan announced by the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets as a downright challenge to the ardent aspirations of the entire Korean people for the peaceful reunification of the country and to the desire and demand of the world's peaceloving people for disarmament and detente, he said:

Although the United States is loud-mouthed about "detente" and "disarmament," it is nothing but a trick to lull the world public opinion calling for U.S. troop pullout from South Korea and to evade it.

The U.S. imperialists say they are following the "policy of detente" in Europe. But they are unwilling to downgrade the level of military confrontation in Asia, on the Korean peninsula in particular, and are resorting to their policy of war in a more undisguised manner. This vividly shows that they still intend to keep hold on South Korea as their colony and military base and invade the Asian continent.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are now spreading the words that the projected "Team Spirit 90" joint military exercises will be scaled down allegedly for dialogue and detente. But it is a foolish deceptive ruse to conceal the aggressive and provocative nature of the military exercises and flout public opinion at home and abroad.

If the United States and the South Korean authorities defiantly staged the nuclear war exercises on the Korean peninsula, they would meet with strong condemnation from the entire Korean people and the world's peace-loving people and would be held wholly responsible for all the consequences arising therefrom.

U.S. Response to Denuclearization Proposal Urged

*SK2801101790 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0922 GMT 28 Jan 90*

[Text] Pyongyang January 28 (KCNA)—The United States must never shun the question of denuclearization on the Korean peninsula but come out at an early date to the negotiating table for tripartite talks to resolve it, says NODONG SINMUN today in a signed article.

Condemning the wrong behavior of the United States in ignoring the question of denuclearization on the Korean peninsula, the article says the U.S. authorities even fail to give a clear answer to the proposal for tripartite negotiations among the DPRK, the United States and South Korea the DPRK made at the end of last year to discuss and solve this question.

Turning its back on the question of denuclearization on the Korean peninsula, the United States resorts to a preposterous false propaganda that we are developing nuclear weapons, in an effort to justify its unjust stand and find a new excuse to refuse to withdraw its nuclear forces from South Korea, the paper says, and goes on:

The question of denuclearization on the Korean peninsula can be resolved only when there are practical responses among the parties concerned. Hence, whether denuclearization on the Korean peninsula is realized in accordance with the ardent desire of the Korean people and the world's peaceloving people or not depends on how the United States responds to it.

If the United States come out to the negotiating table for tripartite talks in response to our sincere efforts and commit itself to halting the introduction of new nuclear weapons into South Korea, withdrawing all the nuclear weapons already deployed there and cancelling all the operational plans concerning the use of nuclear weapons, the question of denuclearization on the Korean peninsula can be resolved easily.

The article stresses:

If the United States truly wants nuclear disarmament and world peace, there is no need for it to keep many pieces of nuclear weapons deployed in South Korea. If these nuclear weapons of the United States are aimed at other socialist countries, it should withdraw them from South Korea since it has already signed a nuclear arms reduction treaty with the Soviet Union.

To all intents and purposes, the United States has no reason to keep hold on South Korea as its nuclear base.

Moreover, since the Soviet Union has repeatedly manifested its intention to guarantee together with other powers in the region the non-nuclear status of the Korean peninsula in case a nuclear-free zone is established in the area, the United States must take a similar step of guarantee at an early date.

Status of Korean Border Wall Discussed

U.S. Denounced for 'Keeping Mum'

*SK2701083590 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0821 GMT 27 Jan 90*

["We Are Watching U.S. Acts"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 27 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comes out with a signed commentary denouncing the United States responsible for the settlement of the Korean question for keeping mum about the pulling down of the concrete wall.

Noting that the United States remains indifferent to the demolition of the concrete wall in South Korea, as if it had nothing to do with it, the news analyst says:

The wall is a direct offspring of the "two Koreas" scheme of the U.S. imperialists and it was built on their script and under their direction.

According to their aggressive Asia-Pacific strategy, they make it the cardinal point in their Korean policy to keep hold on South Korea as their permanent colony and military base and anti-communist bulwark.

Hence they made their puppets build the wall to divide into two for good and all the homogenous Korean people who have lived in the same and one territory for thousands of years, creating one history and culture.

As the puppets built the concrete wall under its instigation, the United States is obliged to take a measure to destroy it.

The U.S. authorities had said the wall in another country must be pulled down. When it was opened, they welcomed it. Then, why do they keep silence about demolishing the concrete wall which cuts across the Korean peninsula at its waist, bisecting it?

The attitude of the United States towards the removal of the wall is a touchstone proving whether it truly desires peace on the Korean peninsula and its reunification, or not and whether its talk about "peace" and "reunification" is real, or false.

However loudly it may cry for "opening" and "reunification" with the concrete wall left intact, the world people will not believe it.

The world is watching how the United States acts.

Buddhist Group Favors Destruction

*SK3001101290 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0959 GMT 30 Jan 90*

[Text] Pyongyang January 30 (KCNA)—The plenary meeting of the Central Committee of the Korean Buddhists Federation (KBF) took place in Pyongyang on January 30.

Discussed there were "tasks for realising the new proposal for peaceful reunification put forward by respected President Kim Il-song in his New Year address."

Pak Tae-ho, chairman of the Central Committee of the federation, delivered a report at the meeting, which was followed by speeches.

Recalling that respected President Kim Il-song in his new year address set forth a new reunification proposal for removing the concrete wall built in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line and ensuring free travel and opening all doors between the North and the South, the reporter and speakers stated that the demolition of the wall and the reunification of the country are an urgent request either in view of the chajusong [spirit of "self-reliance"] of the nation or of global independence.

If this cursed wall is torn down so that people of all strata in the North and the South including Buddhists may contact each other without restriction, freely traveling each other's area, and the doors are completely opened in the political, economic, cultural and all other domains, the national tragedy will be gone, the tragedy in which the nation of the same origin is divided by a wall to stand in confrontation, the flower of reconciliation and unity will come into bloom on the Military Demarcation Line and the whole nation will join efforts and reunify the country independently in a peaceful way, they said. They urged the South Korean authorities to destroy the concrete wall.

Pointing out that this year is a year marking the 45th anniversary of the liberation of the country and, at the same time, the 45th anniversary of national division, they vowed to make this year a year of historical turn in demolishing the barrier of division and opening the door to reunification.

A decision was adopted at the meeting.

NODONG SINMUN on Wall

SK2801100790 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0906 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 28 (KCNA)—To pull down the concrete wall built in the area South of the Military Demarcation Line and realise free travel is a guarantee for removing misunderstanding and distrust caused by the division of nearly half a century, promoting understanding and trust and, furthermore, opening a decisive phase of national reunification through a nation-wide struggle on the basis of national reconciliation and unity, stresses NODONG SINMUN today.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught in his New Year address for this year:

"After removing the concrete wall, free travel must be realized between North and South. Workers, peasants, young people and students, politicians, businessmen, cultural workers, religious men and other people from all walks of life in the North and the South should be allowed to visit the other side's area freely, having contact with one another and working without restraint."

In order to realize free travel between the North and South, above all, the concerete wall must be removed, the paper in a signed article says, adding:

The concrete wall built in the area South of the Military Demarcation Line by the South Korean ruling quarters is a symbol of division and confrontation. But instead of accepting our proposal, they are asserting in a far-fetched manner that "there is no concrete wall."

No Tae-u at his "New Year press conference" said not a word about removing the wall.

Now that they continue talking about "opening" and "unification" and welcome the opening of the wall in another country, why do the South Korean authorities keep mum about pulling down the wall they have built by themselves?

It proves that "free travel," "opening" and "reunification" on their lips are lies.

Their clamour about the signing of "traffic, communications agreement" and "unified channel of dialogue" means to keep the people living separated from each other, allowing a few limited number of persons to travel without opening the door of free travel. The South Korean ruling quarters must not hesitate to accept our new epoch-making proposal for national reunification.

Reportage on South's Three-Party Merger

NODONG SINMUN Sees 'Plot'

SK3001051890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0444 GMT 30 Jan 90

["Long-term Office Plot by One-Party Solo"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 30 (KCNA)—The traitor No Tae-u who is playing the gamble of the merger of the "Democratic Justice Party," the "Reunification Democratic Party" and the "New Democratic Republican Party" under the back-stage manipulation of the U.S. imperialists on January 25 met Kim Yong-sam and Kim Chong-pil and decided to complete as early as possible the inauguration and registration of the "Democratic Liberal Party" (tentative name) and form a "single group large enough to have a legislative bargaining position in the National Assembly" before February 19, the day set for the opening of "an extraordinary session of the National Assembly", and steer the "National Assembly." They said they would work out a single proposal on such "disputed laws" as "National Security Law" and "law on the security planning board" and railroad it through the "National Assembly" and, furthermore, would "revise the constitution for the introduction of a parliamentary cabinet system" and form "a cabinet supported by the whole nation".

Commenting on this, NODONG SINMUN today brands the "political restructuring "through the three-way merger as a dangerous political plot to reduce the "National Assembly" to a stage for the solo of the "Democratic Liberal Party," having grabbed the overwhelming majority of the parliamentary seats, and thus revise the fascist laws for the worse in their favour, amending the constitution freely.

The news analyst says:

It is as clear as noonday that the drama of "political restructuring" through the merger of three parties will further reduce the "National Assembly" and the "cabinet" of South Korea to a hand-raising machine and a political tool, to all intents and purposes, which will support and execute the anti-national, anti-democratic and anti-reunification policies of the puppet clique under the U.S. baton. In a nutshell, this indicates that the merger is a product of the crisis of the U.S. imperialists' colonial fascist rule, a political coup to maintain and prolong the military fascist dictatorship by rallying ultra-rightist reactionary forces which cannot survive without the patronage of the United States.

Facts clearly show that, a genuine policy of parliamentary democracy cannot be expected nor can the independent and democratic development of South Korean society and national reunification be achieved with the "political restructuring" through the merger of three parties engineered by the U.S. imperialists allowed.

NODONG SINMUN on 'Restructuring'

*SK2701090490 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0826 GMT 27 Jan 90*

[Text] Pyongyang January 27 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comments on the resentment and resistance with which the South Korean public figures and people reacted the "political restructuring" by traitor No Tae-u through the merger of three parties.

It notes that, after the announcement of the three-way merger, students belonging to the "Seoul District Council of General Student Councils" (Sochongnyon) and students of local universities held rallies every day denouncing the merger, and the Party for Peace and Democracy, the preparatory meeting for the founding of a progressive mass party and other opposition organisations branded it as "a political coup totally ignoring the will of the people," and religious organisations condemned it as "a ruse for a long-term office" of the military fascist "regime."

The news analyst says:

The "political restructuring" through the merger of three parties is an offspring of the crisis of the colonial military fascist rule of U.S. imperialism; it is a political coup to maintain and prolong the military fascist dictatorship by rallying the right-wing reactionary forces with the No Tae-u military fascist group as the backbone under U.S. backstage manipulation and is a malicious reactionary offensive against the forces for reunification and democracy.

The U.S. imperialists and the No Tae-u group seek to bridge over the serious crisis of the colonial fascist rule and achieve the "stability" of the political situation through the treacherous "political restructuring," and thus maintain the colonial fascist dictatorship. But this is a futile dream. The three-way merger is no more than an adventurous political gamble of political charlatans to satisfy their political greed and it will only bring the confusion of the South Korean political situation and the ruling crisis to more serious dimensions.

Only when the U.S. imperialists' colonial domination and military fascist dictatorship are brought to an end in South Korea can a new breakthrough be made in the socio-political development and the stability of the political situation be achieved there.

A news analyst of MINJU CHOSON says:

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets are trying to tide over the serious political crisis and prop up the colonial fascist rule by "political restructuring." But this is a foolish dream.

MINJU CHOSON on Merger

*SK2801100390 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0853 GMT 28 Jan 90*

[Text] Pyongyang January 28 (KCNA)—The "merger of the three parties"—the "Democratic Justice Party" (DJP), the "Reunification Democratic Party" (RDP) and the "New Democratic Republican Party" (NDRP)—in South Korea is an offspring of the colonial fascist ruling crisis and a political coup intended to maintain and prolong the military fascist dictatorship by bringing together reactionary forces, said MINJU CHOSON in a commentary Saturday.

The news analyst said:

In order to cope with the present situation where the "DJP" is isolated and rejected by the people and there is an unstable political party setup of "a strong opposition and a weak ruling party" for it the "Democratic Justice Party," a private political party of the traitor No Tae-u, is working hard to win over to it the conservative "RDP" and "NDRP" so as to split and disorganise opposition forces and expand and strengthen its forces and thereby build a system for its long-term office.

Through the "merger of the three parties" under the pretext of a "political restructuring" the No Tae-u group seeks to maintain the "unified channel of monopolizing dialogue and debate on reunification and aggravate the North-South confrontation for the creation of "two Koreas".

By replacing the present four-party set-up of "a strong opposition and a weak ruling party" into a two-party setup of "a strong ruling party and a weak opposition," they foolishly intend to confront South Korean reunification forces with an allied force and stand against us, too.

This proves that the "merger of the three parties" is an anti-dialogue, anti-peace and anti-reunification move to build a system of anti-national confrontation and division.

Noting that the U.S. imperialists are behind the reactionary and anti-popular "political restructuring" in South Korea, he continued:

In a bid to retain their permanent grip on South Korea as a springboard for an aggression on the continent in carrying out their aggressive Asian strategy the U.S. imperialists worked out the script of the "merger of the three parties" in South Korea whereby the present military fascist junta is put up as the core and opposition conservative forces are aligned with it to tide over the serious crisis of their colonial rule there.

NODONG SINMUN on Police Force in South

SK2901060090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0529 GMT 29 Jan 90

["Bayonet Rule Can Not Last Long"—KCNA headline]

Pyongyang January 29 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN monday comments on the decision of the No Tae-u military fascist clique to increase the police force by 30,200 men by 1992 from this year for raising "the security capacity for the people" at "a joint report meeting on measures for public security for the people" on January 25.

This vividly shows how desperately the No group is working to build up the repressive force in a bid to block the people's anti-U.S., anti-fascist struggle and maintain the military fascist dictatorial "regime" by bayonet suppression under the specious pretext of "public security for the people", the news analyst says, and adds:

The police force of South Korea is an anti-popular repressive force for the maintenance of the military fascist rule, not for "public security for the people".

The traitor No Tae-u has increased the police force by 10,000 men every year since he took office and raised its function.

The move to cover the whole land of South Korea with the police repressive force vividly shows that the "democratisation" and "public security for the people" loudly mouthed by the traitor No Tae-u, an atrocious human butcher, is nothing but a trumpeting full of falsity and deception.

The brutal bayonet terror rule of the military fascist clique will explode the pent-up grudges and anger of the South Korean people and this resentment will result in dealing a sledge hammer blow of revenge on the hangmen, sooner or later.

Use of Police by No 'Clique' Denounced

SK2901054090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0510 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 29 (KCNA)—Cases of murder, robbery, violence and other crimes break out in an unbroken chain in South Korea, causing social unrest and losses to the people.

The No Tae-u fascist clique, however, mobilises more than 7,000 police every day under the cloak of "civilian security" and make them regularly guard the U.S. Embassy and other foreign diplomatic and consular offices, the buildings of the "Democratic Justice Party" and puppet public buildings, which have nothing to do with "civilian security."

This fact was made public by the puppet police headquarters on January 25.

The deceptive "civilian security" drama of the No Tae-u group fully shows that it is a group of traitors who are interested only in the security of their U.S. imperialist masters and their own group, not minding that people fall victims to crimes.

Commentary Decries 'Human Rights' in South

SK2601232190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0613 GMT 25 Jan 90

[Tactical Silence of "Human Rights Champion"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 25 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today comments on the silence the U.S. imperialists keep on the wanton violation of human rights in South Korea, while styling themselves "a champion of human rights".

The news analyst says:

The South Korean puppets, though loud-mouthed about "democracy" and "human rights," have in actuality turned the whole land of South Korea into a graveyard of democracy and civil rights and a hell of torture and murder more terrifying than in the days of the "yusin" dictatorship and the "Fifth Republic" dictatorship.

The world peaceloving people are denouncing in unison the South Korean puppets' violation of human rights and demanding an immediate end to the inhuman repression.

But the U.S. ruling quarters, who pretend to be "a champion of human rights" talking much about the "human rights problem" in other countries, keep mum about human right abuses by the puppets in South Korea.

The U.S. ruling quarters who quite often interfere in others' affairs, taking issue with the "human rights problem", turn blind eyes to the brutal suppression in South Korea, the worst zone of human right abuses in the world. This is because South Korea is a complete colony of the United States and the fascist rule of the South Korean puppets has been established according to a scenario written by it.

In an attempt to keep hold on South Korea as their permanent colony and military base and anti-communist forefront, the U.S. imperialists put such hand-raised puppet as No Tae-u in "power" and are driving him into a ruthless attack on all elements obstructive to their military occupation policy and colonial rule.

It is none other than the U.S. imperialists who encroach upon and violate human rights most seriously.

If the U.S. imperialists want to speak of "human rights", they should not try to poke their noses into others' affairs and admonish them, but should resolve the human rights problem in South Korea, first of all, which they are occupying and ruling.

South 'Must Withdraw' Yim, Mun Penalties

*SK3001104690 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1022 GMT 30 Jan 90*

[Text] Pyongyang January 30 (KCNA)—The South Korean fascist clique must immediately withdraw the unwarrantable penalties imposed upon coed Yim Su-kyong and Father Mun Kyu-hyon and acquit them. And they must abolish the fascist "National Security Law" and step down as demanded by the South Korean people.

The Central Committee of the Korean Roman Catholics Association demands this in a statement today.

It is a vicious challenge to the fellow countrymen and our Roman Catholics in the North and the South who aspire after the country's reunification to demand heavy penalties for Catholic Yim Su-kyong and Father Mun Kyu-hyon on unreasonable charges, it says, and continues:

Coed Yim and Father Mun can never be "criminals" on any account. In the days of their Pyongyang visit they powerfully demonstrated at home and abroad that our country is one and our wish is reunification.

In view of their mission as members of the nation or the conscience of believers, their deeds deserve praises by fellow countrymen and there is no reason or ground to criminalize and punish them.

The No Tae-u group put handcuffs on them the moment they went back to South Korea and subjected them to all manner of persecution, interrogating and torturing them for nearly half a year, and recently committed a shocking fascist outrage by demanding heavy penalties for them at an illegal strong-arm "trial".

The Central Committee of the Korean Roman Catholics Association bitterly denounces this fascist outrage, branding it as one more anti-national criminal act of throwing a wet blanket over the desire of all the fellow countrymen for reunification and a monstrous act of stifling love and reconciliation, democracy and human rights.

Fifth Republic Legacies 'Null and Void'

*SK2901111690 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1008 GMT 29 Jan 90*

[Text] Pyongyang January 29 (KCNA)—South Korean dissident democratic organisations—the May Movement Council, the South Cholla Provincial Preparatory Committee for Alliance of Peasants' Movement and the South Cholla Provincial Headquarters of the People's Movement for Democracy—declared to the whole world the "liquidation of the Fifth Republic legacies" null and void, according to a report.

In a statement entitled "liquidation of Fifth Republic legacies declared null and void", they said: In case the No "government" fails to liquidate legacies of the Fifth Republic completely, we will solve them by ourselves. In that case the No "government" will be liquidated together.

Dictator Chon Tu-hwan, shirking the blame for the massacre of Kwangju citizens, on to another, is protecting the United States from the blame.

Defector to North Interviewed by Reporters

*SK2601233390 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1109 GMT 25 Jan 90*

[Text] Pyongyang January 25 (KCNA)—South Korean So Chae-hui, 32, who came over to the northern half of the country some time ago was interviewed by home and foreign reporters here Thursday.

He hailing from Chonju, North Cholla Province, graduated from the College of Social Science of Seoul University in 1981, and then served as an administration official of the "South Korean Academy of Science and Technology" and helped his father in construction business in Chonju.

Referring to the motive of his coming over to the North, he said his defection was prompted by his disillusion about the unjust, corrupt and ailing South Korean society full of contradictions and his longing for the society of the North where the working people are the master of the country.

He said he made up his mind to come over to the North when he was under the surveillance of the "Security Planning Board" for his contact with activists and succeeded in coming to the bosom of the socialist fatherland, the bosom of the great President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il from the United States some time ago.

He emphasized that the road of coming over to the North he chose is neither escape nor submission but a righteous road to live a life worthy of man under the most sacred socialist system in the North and devote his all to the sacred national cause for the reunification of the country.

The South is an anti-popular and anti-reunification society bad to live in, full of double and treble contradictions, plus national contradictions, because it is a colony of the United States, he said, and continued:

The economy of the South is a dummy economy which can hardly survive without dependence on the United States and a brigandish economy which can hardly produce anything without bleeding workers white.

The nominal "regime" of the South is no more than a tool of executing dependent politics, colonial rule of the United States, politics is administered in the South by intrigues and frauds, money and power are its means and the political result is "the rich getting richer and the poor becoming poorer".

It is an irresistible trend to espouse, study and disseminate the chuche idea among South Korean youth and students. In this course South Korean students have come to share the view that the chuche idea is, indeed, the great idea of our nation which indicates the most correct way for the independence and democratization of society in the South and the reunification of the country.

Groups for the study of the chuche idea have been organized in each college and university. The students of the groups are reading with avidity works of the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il [words indistinct] and "on some problems of education in the chuche idea" and his other works on the chuche idea and books on this idea and continuously contributing their treatises on their study to "university and college gazettes."

Youth and students of South Korea are now so ardently espousing and following the chuche idea, out of their ardent reverence for and loyalty to the great President Kim Il-song, the author of the chuche idea, and the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il who has developed and enriched the idea.

The great President Kim Il-song in his new year address put forward a new epochal reunification proposal to convert the cause of national reunification into the cause of the whole nation. It is, indeed, a timely and realistic step for the realisation of the desire and demand of the nation to pull down the concrete wall built in the area south of the Military Demarcation Line and ensure free travel between the North and South and a full-scale open door.

Vietnamese Foreign Minister Greets Counterpart

SK3001111290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1033 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 30 (KCNA)—Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach exchanged messages of greetings on the 40th anniversary of the opening of diplomatic relations between the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Kim Yong-nam said in his message that, over the past 40 years since the establishment of the diplomatic relations, the two peoples have advanced together along the road of the struggle for independence, sovereignty and socialism against imperialists' aggression and inteference and, in this course, have been tightly linked together by the bonds of friendship.

Recalling that the two peoples have always supported each other over the past 40 years in the work to build and defend their countries, Nguyen Co Thach said: The Vietnamese people always set store by the relations of friendship and cooperation with the fraternal Korean people and will make continued efforts to consolidate and develop these traditional relations.

The messages expressed the belief that the friendly and cooperative relations between the two countries would grow stronger and develop.

Moscow Cited on U.S. Troop Issue in Korea

SK3001112990 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2100 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Moscow radio on 27 January carried a commentary exposing the conspiracy which the U.S. imperialists and South Korean puppet clique had hatched at a military huddle in Hawaii.

The radio mentioned the statement of U.S. and South Korean representatives at the so-called working-level defense consultative meeting held in Hawaii which said that the U.S. forces should continue to stay in South Korea, and it condemned this as being complete ignorance of an ever more frequently rising demand—the demand for the complete withdrawal of some 40,000 U.S. troops from South Korea.

The radio said that, we can say that the South Korean social circles had previously put forth such a demand, and today even American public figures are putting forth the same demand. The radio cited examples.

Noting the strong opposition to the reduction of the U.S. Forces from South Korea which was voiced at the meeting on the pretext of the threat of southward invasion, the radio disclosed the erroneousness of the pretext as follows: Recently, the DPRK has not provided any motive to make people doubt its unchangeable policy on easing tension on the Korean peninsula. Instead, the DPRK's peace-oriented proposals for alleviating confrontation, which have been highly assessed in some Asian countries, are well-known facts.

Citing many peace-oriented DPRK proposals, the radio went on to add: Words are not enough to appeal for easing tension and removing distrust and doubt. The DPRK's unilateral reduction of its troops by 30,000 is evidence. The question of the withdrawal from South Korea of the U.S. Forces along with nuclear weapons is an issue whose time had come a long time ago. The U.S. military presence in South Korea is a major obstacle to the reunification of Korea. The U.S. military presence in South Korea is not helpful for strengthening the security of Asia either.

Foreign Language Press Group To Visit Cuba

SK2901113490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1019 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 29 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Foreign Languages Press Group headed by its vice-director Yi Kum-sok left here today by plane for Cuba.

South Korean Group in Japan Holds Meeting

SK2801100490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0859 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 28 (KCNA)—The 10th meeting of the first Central Standing Committee of the Federation of South Koreans in Japan for Democracy and Unification ("Hantongnyon",) a compatriots' organisation, was held on January 12, according to MINJOK SIBO, "MINDAN"-lining compatriots' newspaper.

It summed up activities last year and discussed as the main tasks in 1990 the matters of bringing to a success a nationwide meeting this year in order to realize national reunification by the year 1995 which will mark the 50th anniversary of the August 15 liberation, and arousing stronger international support for the struggle for a true liquidation of the chief culprits of the Kwangju massacre, irregularities of the "Fifth Republic", and the destruction of "security-oriented" rule, the realization of detente and peace on the Korean peninsula, and for the struggle of the South Korean people for independence, democracy and reunification.

As far as the movement for national reunification is concerned the meeting adopted an action program for this year to actively promote an independent exchange and dialogue on the non-governmental level and check the "separate entry" of South Korea into the "United Nations" and other plots for "two Koreas" and undertake struggle for the abolition of suppressive laws and dissolution of repressive tools, etc.

It also resolved to oppose the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises, struggle for the withdrawal of the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons in the movement for independence against the outside forces, anti-war, anti-nuclear peace movement and fight against the political tie-up between South Korea and Japan in the movement for the defence of rights of Koreans in Japan and endeavour to increase the forces supporting the movement for reunification in the movement for international solidarity.

An immediate action program adopted at the meeting includes the matters of invigorating the activities of the headquarters for the promotion of the August 15 nationwide meeting and strengthening the solidarity among its regional organizations overseas and intensifying the movement for the release of Rev. Mun Ik-hwan and Yim Su-kyong.

Also included in it are the tasks to win the legality of "Hantongnyon" and vigorously wage the struggle against the "Team Spirit" joint military exercises.

Paper Carries Kim Il-song's 1959 Work

SK2501011890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 2252 GMT 24 Jan 90

["NODONG SINMUN Carries President Kim Il-song's Work 'Tasks of the Party Organizations of North Hamgyong Province'"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang January 25 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN today carries "On Party Work" and "On the Work of the People's Committees," the first two parts of "Tasks of the Party Organizations of North Hamgyong Province", an immortal classical work of the great leader President Kim Il-song.

The work is the historic speech delivered by him at an enlarged plenary meeting of the North Hamgyong Provincial Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea on March 23, 1959.

In the work he gives scientific answers to questions of principle in the work of the party and the people's committee and the work of all sectors of the national economy such as industry, agriculture and fishery.

President Kim Il-song first elaborates on the party work.

Analysing shortcomings revealed in the work of party organizations in North Hamgyong Province, he sets forth tasks to rectify them quickly and bring about a turn.

The most important task in the work of the party organization of North Hamgyong Province is to wipe out the poisonous consequences of parochialism and nepotism, he says, and continues:

Our party is not a reformers' party, but a Marxist-Leninist party, a militant party which fights against capitalism and for the victory of socialism and communism. In order to be able to overthrow capitalism and obtain victory for socialism and communism the party needs an iron unity, based on the principle of democratic centralism.

The whole party should move united with one mind and one will in accordance with the instructions and decisions of the party central committee, the general staff of the party. Within the party there can be no hanging back when the leadership orders to go "forward" or running to the right when it orders to turn "to the left". Only anarchists act that way.

No party member has the right to violate the instructions of the party central committee, which represent the will of all party members. That is why we should fight resolutely against factionalism, parochialism and nepotism.

He says that every party member should cultivate the habit of studying the party's policies profoundly and carrying them out unconditionally.

Underscoring the need to improve the party's personnel affairs, he says that as in the past, particularly these days, the party central committee has posed the personnel affairs as the foremost work of the party.

In promoting cadres, those who are infinitely loyal to the party, those who are enterprising in party work, revolutionary activities, those who have ability and knowledge should be selected, he says.

The next important thing in party work is to work with the intellectuals, he notes, and stresses:

Our party has absolute trust in the intellectuals who fight on our side.

The working class should look to the intellectuals for their knowledge and skills, and the latter should look to the former for their revolutionary spirit, strong organization and immense loyalty to the party, thus uniting and cooperating with each other in the struggle for communism.

Beside, he underlines important problems in the party work such as to explain and propagate the party's policies and decisions so that all party members may be well-informed of them and all the party members breathe the same air, speak the same words and act in unison, and establish revolutionary order and discipline within the party.

Next President Kim Il-song refers to the work of the people's committees.

To carry out the work of the people's committee well, it is necessary to educate the cadres systematically and that all functionaries must study, he says.

Functionaries in this field, as servants of the people, as persons who do errands for the people, should not rant at the people but teach them, work with them and learn from them, he notes.

He stresses that the people's committee functionaries should be infinitely loyal to the party's policies and work under the leadership of the party.

Kim Chong-il Flower Blooms Worldwide

SK2901005590 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] The Kim Chong-il flower has been bred on a large scale and is full bloom across the country and in many nations of the world.

The Kim Chong-il flower, which made its world appearance in February 1988 amid the boundless blessings of all people, has been rapidly spread throughout the country, being upheld by the loyalty of all people across the country. About 10,000 samples of this flower have been disseminated to the revolutionary historical sites including the secret camps in Mt Paektu, plants, enterprises, cooperative farms, the People's Army units, scientific, educational, cultural and art organizations, the street people's work team [kadu inminban], and to scores of nations across the continent and the ocean.

Thanks to faithful efforts of researchers, technicians and managers of hothouses at the Taesongsan General Management Bureau and the Central Botanical Garden, the Kim Chong-il flower has been rapidly bred and widely disseminated to committees, ministries and central organizations of the State Administration Council, to botanical gardens in each province, to local plants, enterprises and cooperative farms, as well as to each home.

Not only our people but also many friends in foreign countries learned the method of cultivating the Kim Chong-il flower. The foreign friends, after returning to their countries, earnestly cultivated this flower.

Thus, today the flower has taken root in flower gardens in Havana, the capital of Cuba, and in Amsterdam, the capital of Netherlands, and is in full bloom in the houses and offices of figures in many nations of the world including Nicaragua, Sweden, Seychelles, Benin and Peru. The flower makes the people overflow with deep emotion, joy and the sense of endless respect.

Chuche Idea Leads Socialist Construction

SK2801102290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0929 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 28 (KCNA)—Through their experiences in life, our people have a faith that it is an inexorable law of history that imperialism will go to ruin and socialism will prevail whatever frantic offensive the reactionary forces may take and that the chuche idea is a genuine guiding idea which makes it possible to consolidate, develop and add lustre to socialism, says NODONG SINMUN today in a signed article titled "chuche idea is banner of leading our socialist construction to victory."

Noting that in order to carry out with credit huge revolutionary tasks facing us and build socialism better as required by chuche it is imperative to hold aloft the banner of the chuche idea and make revolution and construction our own way, the article elaborates on the validity and vitality of this idea:

The chuche idea is a great idea which leads the socialist construction of our people to victory and an imperishable banner guaranteeing a final victory of the revolutignary cause of chuche. Socialism built by our people is a unique socialism in which the chuche idea is embodied.

The final objective of our party and revolution is also to build a society which has been modelled on the chuche idea.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song taught:

"Our magnificent fighting objectives for the 90s call on all our people to perform fresh, heroic exploits, and the chuche idea of our party illuminates our road to victory."

The key to carry on this year's tasks for socialist construction in step with the trend of history depends on how to apply the chuche idea.

The validity and vitality of the chuche idea which is a banner of socialist construction lie in that it, first of all, illuminates a correct road of building a peculiar socialism in which everything is made to serve the popular masses to the maximum, with them placed in the centre.

The chuche idea, based on a scientific analysis of the intrinsic requirement and law of the revolutionary cause of the working class, clarifies that to this end, it is imperative to conquer the ideological and material fortresses on communism and carry on the three revolutions, while strengthening the people's power and consistently enhancing its function. This idea also elucidates that it is a lawful course of accomplishing the revolutionary cause of the working class that the working class and other people should set up their power, establish a socialist system and continue revolution to realize the complete chajusong of the popular masses. All this is a highly important guideline to constantly push ahead with the revolutionary cause of the working class without any slightest deviation.

The validity and vitality of the chuche idea also lie in that the chuche idea help the popular masses step up socialist construction with the attitude of the masters of the revolution and in the spirit of self reliance.

The chuche idea is an ideological banner to constantly strengthen the invincible unity and cohesion of the leader, the party and the masses and a guideline with which to continue revolution till the Chajusong of the popular masses has been completely realized.

The truth of this idea has been clearly proved in our people's practice of socialist construction.

Building of Pyongyang Houses Accelerated

SK2801060090 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 2115 GMT 19 Jan 90

[NODONG SINMUN 20 January editorial: "Let Us, the Entire Party, the Entire Country, and All the People, Vigorously Accelerate the Construction of 50,000 Houses in Pyongyang"]

[Text] The grand struggle to build 50,000 houses in Pyongyang by highly upholding this year's New Year address by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the decisions of the 17th plenary session of the Sixth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] has started. Currently, the people of the whole country including all builders of the capital are overflowing with blazing enthusiasm to brilliantly carry out the militant task put forth by the party.

Under the energetic leadership of our party, our people vigorously built in a short time some 260 structures that added luster to the era of the WPK, including Kwangbok Street and Chongchun Street in Pyongyang, and the 1 May Stadium, which seats 150,000 people. Also, our party successfully accomplished the 13th World Festival of Youth and Students. After these kinds of results, our party again made Pyongyang, the capital of revolution, into a world-wide city, a city worthy of being the heart of the revolution of the chuche era, and carried out bold and daring plans to provide a more favorable life for the people.

Today, we are faced with the important task of finishing in a short time the construction of massive structures, such as the second phase construction of Kwangbok Street and construction of Nangnang Street; and also of building 50,000 modern houses in Pyongyang and schools, kindergartens, children's nurseries, and service facilities related to them; the East Pyongyang Thermal Power Station; and the Three Revolutions Exhibition Hall. The construction of these massive structures are one and a half times greater compared with the scale of the construction of hundreds of structures for the festival, which were carried out during the past 3 years.

The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has taught: The builders in charge of building Kwangbok Street and other important structures in Pyongyang must finish ahead of schedule the date of construction and guarantee the quality of the structures to the utmost. This could change Pyongyang into a more magnificent and brilliant modern city.

The fight to construct the capital, including building 50,000 houses is worthwhile work in realizing the magnificent plan of dear Comrade Kim Chong-il to make Pyongyang into a more magnificent and brilliant city and to provide more modern houses and better living conditions for the people as intended and desired by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

The building of houses is important in solving the people's food, clothing, and housing problems. In order to solve the housing problem of the people smoothly, our party is working hard to build houses in the city as well as in the rural areas. Also, numerous modern plants, including cement plants, silicate plants, steel plants, and building material plants were built, opening broad prospects of building houses on a large-scale.

When a radical turn is effected in the supply of food and clothes in a few years by successful farming and a revolution in the light industry and the housing problem is solved more successfully as indicated by our party, our country will become a country with nothing in the world to envy.

The fight to complete by the end of 1991 the large-scale construction of the capital is a great construction unprecedented in the history our country's construction and a struggle to bring about a new turning point in solving the housing problem.

Dear Comrade Kim Chong-il personally initiated the drive for the construction of 50,000 houses in Pyongyang, took all measures to powerfully advance the vast construction, and powerfully aroused the entire party, country, and people in the construction of the capital.

"Let us build another street like Kwangbok." This is one of the struggle slogans for us to uphold in the construction of the capital. This slogan wholly displayed once again the militant spirit and revolutionary spirit that was shown in the construction of Kwangbok Street. Therefore, it was possible to get the large-scale construction of houses and structures done in a lightning-fashion and includes the firm determination of our party to make Pyongyang into the most advanced city in the world by solving the housing problem.

An example set by the Korean people and their heroic struggle tradition is for the entire party, the entire country, and all the people to make way through millions of mountains and one thousand-ri of raging waves to vigorously accelerate, with one heart and mind, the sacred struggle to realize the great plan put forth by our party.

All the people and builders of the capital must energetically push ahead with the construction of 50,000 houses in Pyongyang by rising up once again with the indomitable fighting spirit with which they built Pyongyang from debris after the war, the stamina and passion with which they performed world-startling feats in completing the world's leading West Sea floodgate in 5 years, and in constructing Kwangbok Street in the spirit of the speed battle joined with chollima.

What is important in energetically accelerating the construction of the capital is for the functionaries and workers to cherish the party's intention as an unshakable conviction and devotedly struggle for its implementation.

It is our party's resolution and will to complete the construction of vast structures, including the construction of 50,000 houses, with our own material and equipment, our own strength and technique, and in our own way at the highest level in 2 years. Nothing is impossible when our party is determined and the whole party adheres to it. The most honorary and glorious work for the revolutionary fighters is to uphold the intention of the party and devote themselves to realizing it.

All party members, workers, and builders of the capital must devote all their creative wisdom and efforts in the struggle to realize our party's grand plan of constructing the capital. The key in stepping up the construction of the capital is the spirit of unconditionality, the spirit of accepting the party's demand as an absolute fighting target, and maintaining it without fail. This is the ideological basis that led to the miracles in the construction of the West Sea floodgate and Kwangbok Street in the past.

All functionaries and builders must set the schedule of the battle based on the completion date of the construction demanded by the party with a rock-firm faith of carrying out the work when the party decides, and must realize their determination, which they have proudly hardened before the party, by devotedly working with a sense of burning loyalty.

To have faith in their own strength and to solve all problems based on the principle of self-reliance is a revolutionary spirit, which must be highly displayed in the construction of the capital. Confronting obstacles head-on, overcoming them, and making the conditions favorable for them with their own strength is a struggle spirit and revolutionary work habit of the revolutionary fighters in creating the new speed of the nineties, while living in an era of rapid progress.

The reason why the exploits of the 10 party members of Nagwon are moving for many people is that they fulfilled the party's assignments with their own strength even by going through difficulties without asking the upper units for any assistance. This spirit and mettle are demanded of all party members and workers, including those engaging in the construction of the capital, at a time when the grand construction task, unprecedented in the history of building houses in our country, should be performed.

All functionaries and builders must mobilize all reserves and possibilities, strengthen the struggle of the economy with the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude of carrying the work out by themselves or if possible with the help from persons in high positions, to definitely carry out the entrusted construction tasks with the already existing materials and facilities and efforts. The entire party, the entire country, and all the people must accelerate the work of vigorously supporting the construction of the capital politically, morally, and materially.

Pyongyang is the capital of the chuche fatherland and the face of Korea. To make Pyongyang, the capital of revolution, a more magnificent and brilliant modern city is an honorary duty and the joint work of all of our people. Moreover, under the condition of carrying out the vast scale of construction in a short time, all must accelerate the construction of the capital by supporting it politically, morally, and materially so that the construction can progress rapidly according to the intention of the party.

Currently our party is appealing for active support so that the entire party, the entire country, and all the people can adhere to the construction of the capital actively. All functionaries, party members, and workers must be mobilized fully to vigorously support the construction of the capital materially and through labor.

Party organizations at all levels, including the provincial party committee, must profoundly explain to the party members and workers the importance and significance of building the capital, actively carry this out so that the whole nation can seethe with the spirit of supporting the construction of the capital, and strenthen the capacity of the construction battle. Also, the responsible functionaries of the party, mass organizations, and the administrative and economic organizations must regularly recognize the condition of the progress of the entrusted construction unit and the living conditions of the builders, and responsibly solve problems that rise up at the proper time.

What is desperately demanded at the present time is material and equipment for construction such as cement, steel materials, and wood products. The committees and ministries concerned of the State Administration Council should correctly calculate how much equipment and materials are required and thoroughly take measures to guarantee them. The plants and enterprises, including complexes, should responsibly guarantee the timely production of assigned construction equipment and materials.

In order to vigorously accelerate the construction of the capital, the system of commanding construction must be correctly established and the economic organization work must be carried out well. Experience shows that innovation is brought forth when functionaries organize and command all work rationally and with a revolutionary spirit, overflowing with ambition and energy. At a time when our party is carrying out the vast task with an extraordinary revolutionary determination, all construction functionaries and commanding personnel should unsparingly manifest organizational skills and a revolutionary driving force.

All functionaries should thoroughly establish a construction commanding system, correctly allocate labor forces to construction objects, and plan a construction process so that the project can be pushed ahead on schedule.

The functionaries should go down among the construction masses as demanded by the great leader's work method, take the initiative in solving difficult problems, arouse the revolutionary zeal of the masses, and make constant renovations in every working spot with bold operations, skillful command, and vigorous political work.

When a high goal is set in carrying out whatever project, enthusiasm is created and the reward of struggle is great. In conformity with the demands of today when our party has unfolded daring construction operations, functionaries should set high fighting goals, conduct operations in a daring manner, and expedite the completion of construction in an all-out manner, thus seeing to it that every working site will overflow with the vitality of a new grand march in the nineties and that all construction workers will become the creators of exploits and the heroes of construction.

Like in all other fields, success in the construction field can be greater when construction is backed by science and technology. A great reserve for increasing the speed and improving the quality of construction and for saving materials and manpower lies in technical innovation.

The commanding construction functionaries should actively organize and mobilize a wide range of masses to technical innovation to achieve more technical successes and should powerfully push ahead with construction by actively introducing advanced construction know-how and by combining it with the existing methods.

A decisive key to victory in today's construction of the capital lies in upholding the party's leadership with loyalty. The construction objects and supplies, assigned to provinces and other units, are parts to realize the party's grand program and responsible tasks linked to the authority of our party, which never fails to carry out any task if it is determined to do it.

The functionaries in all fields and at all units, including the capital construction workers, should further make our party's militant power and leadership shine by working more.

Even though the construction of 50,000 houses and construction projects linked to it are grand, vee? certain.

All functionaries and workers should expedite the competion of assigned construction projects and create the speed of the nineties by staging an invincible struggle while upholding the party's slogan demanding "Let us all live and struggle like heroes," thus powerfully demonstrating once again the superiority of our style of socialist economic system, the economic might of our country, and the invincible power of our people united around the party and the leader in a single-hearted manner.

New Lagging Material Production Base Produced

SK2701090890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0833 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 27 (KCNA)—Korea completed researches into a new lagging material out of abundant home raw materials and succeeded in its mass production by industrial method.

A lagging material production base with an annual production capacity of tens of thousands of cubic metres has been built at the Pyongyang chemical building materials factory. It began production recently.

The particle of the new lags made through the floating calcination of raw stones is very fine. It is lighter and its heat insulation is several times greater than the old one.

It can retain warmth when it is 20 millimetres thick.

The new lagging material is wide in the scope of use.

Its weight is no more than 60 to 100 kilogrammes per cubic metre.

In construction it can be carried in bags and spread on the ceiling of public buildings and used in diversifying the architectural styles of buildings by making light blocks with it.

With its sound-absorbing capacity fairly big, it can prevent echo while keeping warmth when ceilings and walls of such public buildings as theatres and cinema houses are lined with it.

The new lagging material also can be used in agriculture to prevent drought damages to crops and increase the efficiency of fertilizer as its capacity of absorbing water is high and it contains microelements.

It is used also in foodstuff industry as a filter material.

Leaders Attend Rally of Pyongyang Youth

SK2701120090 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1230 GMT 14 Jan 90

[Excerpts] The rally of loyalty by youth and students of Pyongyang to become the vanguard and shock brigade in the struggle for implementation of the militant tasks put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year address this year and decisions of the 17th plenary meeting of the 6th party Central Committee was held at the Kim Il-song Plaza on 14 January. [passage omitted]

Comrade Yi Chong-ok, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Worker's Party of Korea [WPK] and vice president; Comrade Chong Chun-ki, candidate member of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and vice premier of the State Administration Council; Comrade Choe Tae-pok, secretary of the WPK Central Committee and Choe Mun-son, Choe Yong-hae, and other personages concerned attended the rally. [passage omitted]

Production of Major Chemical Goods Increased

SK2601151390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1500 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 26 (KCNA)—The production of rayon yarn, staple fibre, vinalon, polyethilene and other major chemical goods has increased considerably entering this year under the Ministry of Chemical Industry.

Notably the rayon yarn output had trebled by January 23 as against the comparable time last year.

The Sinuiju Chemical fibre complex boosted staple fibre output 2.7 times.

Efforts are made to increase production this year with less fuel, raw materials, power and materials. The factories under the Ministry will save this year 215 million kwh of electricity, 550,000 tons of coal, 7,000 tons of naphtha and several thousand tons of caustic soda by putting production processes on modernized, enlarged and scientific basis.

The Hungnam fertilizer complex is accelerating the work for replacing scores of ammonia synthesizing tower with big ones and introducing new technology in the ammonia production system in the first half of this year to save annually 34 million kwh of electricity.

The February 8 vinalon complex is striving to save nearly 6 million kwh of electricity annually by introducing new coal dressing technology in the carbide production processes and an automatic control system in the caustic soda production processes.

Electric Power Production Increased in January

SK2601152090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1505 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Pyongyang January 26 (KCNA)—The power stations under the Commission of Electric Power Industry of Korea are nowadays producing 198,000 more kwh of electricity than the daily average in January last year.

Workers of the Pyongyang thermal power complex are carrying out their daily assignments for power production at 104 percent through effective check-up and repair of the generating equipment and higher combustion rate of boilers.

Workers of the Pukchang thermal power complex are overfulfilling their daily quotas by keeping the equipment in full capacity operation.

The Chongjin thermal power complex and the Sunchon thermal power plant are supplying large quantities of electricity to various domains of the national economy.

The producers of the March 17 and Kanggye youth power stations and other hydro-power stations throughout the country are increasing the production of electricity, keeping the water level high.

South Korea

Closures, Pull Out of U.S. Forces Reported

Defense Ministry on Base Closures

SK3001032490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0233 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 30 (YONHAP)—Three U.S. air bases in South Korea will be closed and some 2,000 noncombatant personnel will be pulled out between October this year and July 1992 as part of a global U.S. effort to reduce its military bases overseas.

The Korean Defense Ministry announced Monday that three American air bases—Suwon, Taegu and Kwangju—will be closed and their squadrons reassigned to the two other U.S. air bases in Korea.

"Normal operations of the U.S. Air Force in Korea will be realigned, with emphasis placed on Osan and Kunsan air bases," the announcement said.

It said the closed bases will be reactivated in emergencies or for Korea-U.S. combined operations.

The United States will withdraw its RF-4C reconnaissance planes and Korea will take over the flights with its own new RF-4Cs.

An undisclosed number of air force "administrative officials" will be pulled out of Korea and the bases turned over to the Korean Air Force.

A highly placed government source, elaborating on the reduction plan, said the three bases will be closed between October this year and July 1992 and troop levels reduced by about 2,000 non-combatants.

The source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said operations at Suwon Air Base will be transferred to Osan Air Base, the RF-4Cs at Taegu Air Base will be flown out of Korea and personnel at Kwangju Air Base will be redeployed.

"The functional integration and realignment of the U.S. Air Force in South Korea is part of a U.S. plan to reduce its 126 overseas bases due to an increasing financial deficit and lessening tension between East and West," the source said.

"The detail and exact timing of closing the three air bases will be decided while U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney is in Seoul on Feb. 14-17," the source said.

A reduction of U.S. ground troops in Korea will also be discussed and the result of the talks revealed in a report the Bush administration is to submit to U.S. Congress by April 1.

United States maintains 15,000 air force personnel in Korea out of a total 43,000 military personnel. The reduction will be the first since a withdrawal of 6,000 troops in late 1978 by the administration of President Jimmy Carter.

The redeployment by the U.S. force is regarded as an important change in strategy toward the Far East, including the Korean peninsula, but won't mean any decline in fighting strength.

Defense Ministry officials said the U.S. Air Force will be reinforced with F-16 fighters that are equipped with the latest navigational gear as part of improving its defensive combat capability. At present, it has 60 F/A-16s based in Korea.

Defense Minister on Bases, F-16s

SK3001063690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0607 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 30 (YONHAP)—The United States will station an additonal squadron of F-16 jet fighters at Osan Air Base later this year to compensate for its withdrawal from three other air bases in South Korea, Defense Minister Yi Sang-hun said Tuesday.

"The combat capability of the U.S. Air Force in South Korea will be increased as a squadron of 24 F-16s will be deployed to Osan Air Base between July and September this year, following the functional realignment of the five U.S. Air Bases in Korea," Yi told reporters.

The defense minister was apparently seeking to reassure the public that the balance of air power on the Korean peninsula will not be adversely affected by the U.S. Government's announcement monday that it is pulling out of its air bases at Taegu, Suwon and Kwangju as part of its cutbacks in overseas military bases.

He also said South Korea will purchase nine RF-4C strategic reconnaissance planes to take over from the U.S. Air Force after its reconnaissance squadron of 18 RF-4Cs is redeployed out of Taegu Air Base as officially announced. The Korean Air Force has nine RF-4Cs already.

Touching on the possible withdrawal of U.S. ground forces, Yi said, "there is no agreement between the two countries so far on the issue, but a shared position is that a limited number of administrative and support personnel will be pulled out of Korea on a gradual basis even if the U.S. ground forces are reduced."

He said there will be no withdrawal of U.S. combat forces and the U.S. Administration is not considering it at present since North Korea has taken no step to ease tension on the peninsula.

His remarks hint at a possible discussion of moving U.S. combat forces from South Korea if there is a change in the situation on the peninsula, according to military experts.

The United States maintains 43,000 forces in South Korea and the Pentagon announcement Monday said 2,000 non-combatants will be deployed out of Korea because of the closure of the three air bases.

Yi said that while U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney is in Seoul from Feb. 14 he will discuss a wide range of defense matters, including reduction of U.S. Forces in Korea, their functional coordination, the change in structure, their role, sharing of military costs and relocation of the 8th U.S. Army Headquarters out of downtown Seoul.

"Korea will present a plan to increase its share of the defense burden so that the United States can give a commitment not to withdraw its forces from the nation unilaterally," Yi added.

Troop Withdrawals 'Inevitable'

SK3001033390 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0200 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] A government official, in connection with the integration and closure of some U.S. Air Force bases in Korea, said today that this is a matter separate from the discussion of the reduction of U.S. forces in Korea, which had been conducted between Korea and the United States. The official said that specifics on the reduction of the U.S. forces in Korea would be disclosed when U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney visits Korea on 14 February.

In particular, the official noted that intensive discussions on the question of sharing defense burdens with the U.S. forces in Korea also took place during the ROK-U.S. working-level meeting held in Hawaii on 18 January.

The official added that positive consideration of the withdrawal of a part of the U.S. ground troops from Korea is inevitable, if pressure for defense burden sharing grows to an unendurable degree.

Meanwhile, it has been learned that Korea and the United States are presently considering the reduction of 4,000 to 5,000 U.S. troops—a portion of a natural increase—or the merger or reduction of noncombatants of the 2d U.S. division and other U.S. Army units.

YONHAP Analyzes Base Closings

SK3001091890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0845 GMT 30 Jan 90

[By Pak Chong-chan]

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 30 (YONHAP)—It was announced Monday [29 Jan] that the United States will close three air bases in South Korea as part of a global effort to reduce Pentagon spending without severely jeopardizing the overall military balance on the Korean peninsula.

The pullout, which will be implemented between October this year and July 1992, apparently heralds the start of an inevitable phaseout of U.S. military presence from Korea as a result of the new detente between East and West.

This did not come as a complete surprise.

Few people took U.S. President George Bush at his word when he reaffirmed during a visit to Seoul last year that U.S. troops "will remain in the Republic of Korea as long as they are needed, and as long as we believe it is in the interest of peace to keep them here."

It was little cause for wonder when the United States included Korea on the list of countries where its military presence will be reduced, although it had been predicted that a withdrawal of ground forces would precede a change in the U.S. Air Force, which is a strong deterrent against North Korean attack.

The gist of the "functional realignment" of the U.S. Air Force in Korea is to streamline operations by concentrating most of the functions of the five air bases into two major installations, transferring the role of U.S. RF-4C strategic reconnaissance flights to the South Korean Air Force as well as redeploying some 2,000 non-combatants from the closed air bases out of Korea.

The step is a practical military budget reduction as it will eliminate the cost of running three bases and the withdrawal of the reconnaissance squadron will reduce maintenance costs.

Despite the closure of the air bases, there will be little change in the overall air defense capability in Korea since steps to counter the reduction are being taken, according to military experts here.

Of the three air bases, the function of Suwon Air Base has already been integrated into nearby Osan Airbase, one of the core U.S. Asia-Pacific Air Force Installations, and Kwangju Air Base has only administrative officers stationed there.

The Korean Air Force has nine RF-4Cs at Taegu Air Base and Defense Minister Yi Sang-hun disclosed Tuesday that Korea will purchase an additional nine RF-4Cs to make up for the departing 18 aircraft in the reconnaissance squadron.

Some analysts even say the transfer of the reconnaissance role will accelerate the independence of South Korea's gathering of intelligence on North Korea, for which it largely relies on the U.S. Air Force.

Yi also said a new F-16 squadron will be deployed at Osan Air Base later this year as a follow-up to the reduction.

In short, the U.S. plan is designed to keep the current military balance by transferring part of its past function to Korea and to demonstrate its will to reduce its military presence in the Far East, which might impress the Soviet Union and North Korea.

On the part of South Korea, the reduction will result in an increased cost to defend its airspace.

South Korean leaders, however, apparently took the closing in their stride, opting to increase military spending supported by Korea's growing economic power.

There are confusing reports on the level of reduction of U.S. forces stationed in Korea to be taken up during U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney's visit to Seoul from Feb. 14.

Nobody doubts that the reduction announced on Monday is the first phase of an overall reduction and will be followed by a cutback of ground forces whether it is "symbolic" or "substantive."

A military source said Tuesday, "the South Korean and U.S. authorities will seek a way to reduce U.S. ground forces to a level that will not undermine the combined defense capabilities, including a pullout of non-combatants."

The source said the reduction will take into consideration North Korea's repeated propaganda that the American Forces in South Korea are an obstacle to inter-Korean dialogue.

The implication is that the reduction will expose North Korea's brazen propaganda and could induce Pyongyang to disperse its military concentration in the areas bordering on the South, perhaps developing into disarmament talks.

In addition, the reduction will calm demands for a withdrawal of U.S. Forces by Korea's radical students and progressives, though it could cause concern among older Koreans.

Official on U.S. Troop Reductions

SK3001074090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0715 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 30 (YONHAP)—Discussions with the United States on withdrawing U.S. ground forces from South Korea will continue regardless of the pullout of the U.S. Air Force from three air bases in Korea, a highly placed government official said Tuesday.

"The U.S. steps to close three air bases and consultations on the partial reduction of U.S. troops in Korea are of a different character," said the official, who declined to be named. "The issue of U.S. troop cuts will continue to be discussed through channels already established between the two countries."

The official's remarks are seen as a signal that U.S. ground forces stationed in Korea may be partially reduced.

The official also said a reduction of U.S. troop strength is closely linked with the maintenance of the Korea-U.S. combined defense capability as well as defense burden sharing.

"The Korean Government will positively consider proposals, if made, for the partial reduction of U.S. forces unless they affect the combined defense capability," he said.

The official said no decisions have so far been made on a troop withdrawal and the issue will be deeply discussed by the two countries when U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney visits Seoul on Feb. 14.

According to Korean officials, the two nations are now considering either pulling out 4,000 to 5,000 troops from the 2nd Infantry Division or reducing non-combatant personnel in the Infantry Division and other units.

They also predict, based on these considerations and the Nunn-Warner Amendment that asked the U.S. Administration to submit to congress a concrete plan for the readjustment of U.S. Forces in Korea by April 1, that 2,000 to 3,000 servicemen may be withdrawn from the Korean peninsula by the end of this year.

The two countries announced earlier Tuesday that the U.S. Air Force will close Suwon, Taegu and Kwangju Air Bases in Korea between October this year and July 1992 under a U.S. Government plan to reduce its overseas military presence.

The United States will move the forces stationed at the three bases to Osan and Kunsan air bases except for some 2,000 non-combatants, who will leave Korea, and about 20 RF-4C aircraft used for tactical reconnaissance for the Pacific forces that will be redeployed from Taegu to Okinawa in Japan.

The announcement touched a raw nerve in South Korea, where security is given top priority but public opinion has recently been split over the presence of 43,000 U.S. troops stationed here under the 1954 Mutual Defense Treaty.

A rag-tag band of radical students, dissidents and liberal groups demand the total removal of the U.S. Forces on the grounds that they hamper reunification of the Korean peninsula, divided into the capitalist South and the communist North at the end of World War II in 1945.

The division originated when U.S. troops advanced up the Korean peninsula until the 38th parallel and Soviet troops occupied the Northern half, liberating Korea from Japanese rule.

Opinion polls show that most Koreans want U.S. forces to remain and U.S. officials promise troops will be stationed here as long as a majority of Koreans wish.

Some Koreans are increasingly critical of apparent U.S. pressure on the Korean Government to pay more for the maintenance of U.S. forces in Korea and to support the combined defense capability, arguing that the U.S. presence not only deters North Korean aggression but, more importantly, that the United States has a strategic interest in Northeast Asia.

DJP Warns North on Base Removal

SK3001070090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0629 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 30 (YONHAP)—South Korea's ruling party has warned North Korea not to misinterpret the U.S. decision to pull out of three air bases here as a chance to invade South Korea.

Urging the government to promptly ease the people's anxiety by filling the vacuum of power with Korean forces, Democratic Justice Party Spokesman Pak Hui-tae said in a statement Tuesday [30 Jan] that the party hopes Pyongyang does not misjudge that the time for an invasion is at hand.

Pak said, "the decision will by no means be beneficial to the peace and security of the Korean peninsula if it was made without full discussion with the Korean Government."

He said the party hopes the decision was not the result of an "easygoing and rash" judgement of the situation here.

Calling North Korea the most bellicose nation in the world, Pak said the U.S. forces here have performed a peacekeeping role by suppressing Pyongyang's impulse to invade.

U.S. Fighter Aircraft Purchase Plan Assessed

SK2701094290 Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean 26 Jan 90 p 3

[Article by Yi Yong-ho, reporter of the Political Department, from the column "Reporter's Memo"]

[Text] Now that the government has already decided to purchase U.S. McDonnell Douglas's FA-18's as our next generation fighter aircraft, it may be meaningless to raise a new issue with this purchase plan now.

However, this FX plan is an enormous undertaking for which the people have to pay nearly 70,000 won per capita, and since the U.S. Congress is likely to pressure the U.S. Administration not to fulfill its promise for the "technological transfer," I can hardly rid myself of the apprehension that something is going wrong.

On 5 January, U.S. Senator John McCain came to Seoul and said, "Unless we have the guarantee that the ROK will not hand over the technology to a third country, the United States cannot sell FA-18's."

The seller, not the buyer, braved it out.

In fact, the United States should obtain Congressional approval to sell this fighter aircraft. Meanwhile, the ROK, the purchaser, does not have to get the approval of the National Assembly despite the fact that the people's taxes are to be used in such an astronomical figure for this plan. I am not going to advocate that the FX plan is unnecessary.

As everyone knows, despite the reforms in East Europe, North Korea has not abandoned its desire to overthrow the South through revolution, keeping itself closed.

Moreover, North Korea is reported to possess as many as 40 MIG-29's, which are superior to our main force aircraft at present.

Therefore, the question is not "why should we purchase" the FA-18's, but "why should we purchase 120" of these aircraft.

I am not saying it is too many. The number of the aircraft should at least be examined by the National Assembly, to decrease it if is too many in view of our security situation or to increase it otherwise.

The FX plan is a plan to be implemented from 1993 to 1998.

There is a possibility that the disarmament issue will be discussed between the North and the South in the foreseeable future in the 1990's.

Some people are of the opinion that the decision on this purchase plan was made too soon, since it will be implemented a few years later, when a disarmament negotiation may be held between the North and the South.

Touching on this question, the government officials say, "The FX plan can compel North Korea to abandon the arms race thereby inducing it to North-South disarmament negotiations."

This is not improbable.

However, some say that this could alert North Korea toward the acceleration of the arms race by both sides.

Although the government decided that the next generation aircraft will be FA-18, it has not yet signed a contract with McDonnell Douglas.

Therefore, the government should obtain a guarantee for the "technological transfer" before signing a contract.

For this, the government should not wage a lone struggle. The National Assembly and the people should also make efforts. We should not let the seller brave it out.

Sixth North-South Preliminary Contact Slated

SK2901131990 Seoul YONHAP in English 1250 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 29 (YONHAP)—The sixth preliminarty contact for "the high level conference" between South and North Korea opens on Wednesday [31 Jan] at Tongil-gak, a pavilion at the northern side of the truce village of Panmunjom.

"The first main conference can be held in Seoul in March, if the issue of agenda is settled," an informed official said.

"If the northern side, however, raises such issues as removal of concrete wall on the southern section of the demilitarized zone or stop of the team spirit U.S.-Korea joint military exercise in the meeting as they did last Wednesday [24 Jan], we will have difficulty holding productive discussions," he said.

Accordingly, prospects for the sixth round of contact are uncertain, he added.

Pyongyang insisted Wednesday in the preliminary talks to arrange the inter-Korean parliamentary session that

Seoul remove concrete wall on the southern section of the Demilitarized Zone, which southern officials say does not exist, and stop the Team Spirit U.S.-Korea joint military exercise causing the meeting fruitless.

In the fifth meeting on Dec. 20, the two sides agreed to name the inter-Korean high ranking officials meeting as "the high level conference" and to give each other a free hand in deciding who the delegates would be within 33 including prime minister.

South Seeks To Enact Inter-Korean Fund Bill

SK3001041390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0241 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 30 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government will seek to enact a bill on the establishment of a South-North Korean Economic Cooperation Fund this year to facilitate economic exchanges between both sides, sources at the Economic Planning Board [EPB] said Tuesday.

The sources said legislation of a new law is necessary because currrent laws are too inflexible even though economic exchanges are expected to grow as fast as North Korea moves toward openness.

The proposed law would grant funds to South Korean firms that participate in joint venture projects in North Korea, they said.

It also would establish a legal framework for inter-Korean economic exchanges such as offering loans to North Korea and compensating South Korean firms for losses incurred in trade with North Korea.

The government will create a fund of 200 billion won to 300 billion won (294 million to 441 million U.S. dollars) from next year if the bill is enacted, the sources said.

The EPB hopes to have the bill passed and the law enacted by this fall at the latest, which means seeking passage in a special assembly session.

The government previously studied a plan to include clauses concerning inter-Korean economic cooperation in other laws such as the replacement for the National Security Law.

Further Reportage on Three-Party Merger

Ministers Criticize Action

SK2901132690 Seoul YONHAP in English 1312 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 29 (YONHAP)—A group of senior South Korean dissident protestant ministers issued a statement Monday [29 Jan] denouncing the ruling Democratic Justice Party (DJP)'s planned merger with two opposition parties as a political plot.

"The recent integration plan of the three parties is a high level of political strategem to block the masses from advancing into the political circles by overturning the present sturcture of the minority ruling party against the combined opposition majority," said the Rev. Pak Hyong-kyu, well-known dissident, and nine other ministers.

They will hold a rally to be attended by two thousand Christian priests on Feb. 13 in Seoul, Pak said, to deter the merger.

President No Tae-u's DJP and Kim Yong-sam's Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) and former prime minister Kim Chong-pil's New Democratic Republican Party (NDRP) agreed on Jan. 22 to merge into one ruling conservative party tentatively named "Democratic Liberal Party."

The RDP's shift to ruling camp is the behavior of scrapping political morality, the ministers attacked in the statement.

'Too Many Candidates' Ready

SK3001054190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0503 GMT 30 Jan 90

[by Hong Sang-pyo]

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 30 (YONHAP)—Fierce competition has begun over naming the heads of district chapters of the huge new ruling party being created out of the merger of three parties since the positions hold the key to the power of the leaders of each faction within the alliance.

The 15-member preparatory committee for the unprecedented merger agreed Monday to set up at least 45 chapters of the tentatively named Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), one-fifth of the 224 required for the merger under the political party law, by mid-February, before the DLP registers with the Central Election Management Committee.

The remaining 179 district chapters will be established before an Inaugural National Party Convention in May to formally create the DLP by merging president No Tae-u's Democratic Justice Party (DJP), Kim Yong-sam's Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) and Kim Chong-pil's New Democratic Republican Party (NDRP), an informed source said Tuesday.

The district chapters are crucial because the chapter heads are virtually assured of being nominated to stand in the next general elections, and it will be the lawmakers who select the new head of government if the parliamentary cabinet system is adopted.

The person who can command the loyalty of most lawmakers, and thus take power, will probably be the person who controls the selection of party chapter heads.

No and the two Kims, giving opposition leader Kim Tae-chung the cold shoulder, agreed to merge their parties into "a grand conservative alliance" and reportedly have a tacit understanding that the presidential system will be replaced with a cabinet government system by amending the constitution.

According to sources in the three parties, No will head the DLP and the two Kims will serve on the five-member leadership council. Kim Yong-sam, as chairman, will virtually lead the DLP with full power over party affairs though he will formally be under No.

From his vantage point as the powerful party chairman, the RDP leader is expected to be well placed to seek the premiership, the top post under a parliamentary cabinet system.

It is also expected that key posts in the yet-to-be formed ruling party, the national assembly and the cabinet will be allocated to the three parties roughly in proportion to the assembly seats they now hold.

The same principle may be applied to the appointment of the district party chapter heads in general, while the three parties share the understanding that lawmakers who now lead chapters, whatever their party may be, will have option to be renamed chiefs of the formed DLP branches.

But the problem is that there are too many candidates, including heavyweights from the parties, who are ready to compete for the posts, which will virtually assure most of them of capturing the national assembly seat in that district in the next election, due in March 1992.

Korea has 224 constituencies electing one assemblyman each and 75 seats from the national constituency.

The preparatory committee agreed to lay out guidelines on selecting chapter heads amid hints by officials from the two opposition parties that they may demand the posts be distributed evenly regardless of the proportion of assembly seats to fulfill the spirit of the merger: "free from personal and partisan interests." The DJP has 127 seats, the RDP 59 and the NDRP 35.

A bitter controversy is expected over the basic guidelines on the selections, and the matter may be left to No and the three Kims to decide, the sources said.

More than 20 district chapters, including three in Seoul and two in Pusan, are likely to be at the center of a fierce battle among current lawmakers and heavyweights from the former rival parties, according to an analysis by a leading Seoul daily, the TONG-A ILBO.

Even if the preparatory body decides to give priority to incumbents in naming the chapter heads, it cannot be ruled out that some districts may be treated as strategic constituencies and figures other than current lawmakers appointed through consultations between No and the two Kims, observers say.

Excessive rivalry over the chapter posts is regarded as one of the chronic ills of Korean politics, which critics say has been stained with strife over power and partisan interests while failing to match the progress of the fast-growing economy.

Although on the surface all looks smooth, the DJP, RDP and NDRP are embroiled in in-house fighting over other issues, especially party posts and the format of the leadership system, which is closely entwined with the party leaders' political futures.

Even though the tacit agreement on the appointment of Kim Yong-sam as DLP chairman is true, his chance of fulfilling his ambition to be head of government under the hoped-for cabinet system may hinge mainly on how many lawmakers join his faction in the DLP, which will be modeled after Japan's embattled ruling liberal democratic party, observers say.

In order to avoid a head-on clash over the tangled problem of the district chapters, the new party may resort to expanding the size of the constituencies so that they can elect two or three assemblymen each, observers say.

This would allow the DLP to field three candidates in every constituency, perhaps one from each of the former parties.

An official of the preparatory committee said it will consider the change after the DLP's inaugural convention.

RDP Voted 'Out of Existence'

SK3001063690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0623 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 30 (YONHAP)—South Korea's second largest opposition party formally voted itself out of existence in a special national party convention Tuesday [30 Jan] in order to merge with the ruling party and a minor opposition party.

The Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) convention adopted by acclamation a resolution to accept the proposed merger and to entrust RDP President Kim Yong-sam with any follow-up procedures he deems necessary, hastily ending the meeting in 34 minutes.

RDP Chairman Chong Sang-ku declared the vote unanimous despite objections from some deputies after a majority applauded deputy RDP President Hwang Myong-su's motion.

Chong asked shortly before he declared the result if there were any objections, but when Deputy RDP President Kim Sang-hyon and some other deputies voiced complaints he ignored them.

Much of the convention was given over to a pep talk by Kim Yong-sam, who said he had come to make the "great decision" to join forces with the other two parties "out of the need to solve political instability and prepare for possible inter-Korean general elections in the next century."

The validity of the resolution was questioned by a group of deputies in a news conference immediately after the meeting. They charged that the decision was made without such due procedures as formal submission of a motion and debate.

Kim Sang-hyon and Rep. No Mu-hyon, outspoken opponents of the merger, said they would take the issue to court.

Yi Ki-taek, a deputy RDP president and floor leader, and Kim Hyon-kyu, another deputy RDP president, said in a separate news conference that they would not join the new ruling party, tentatively called Democratic Liberal Party.

The two senior RDP leaders said they would "remain in the opposition camp in order to preserve the legitimacy of the democratic forces rather than emigrate to the ruling party."

Their joint news conference was attended by a few incumbent RDP legislators and 20 chairmen of RDP regional chapters who do not have seats in the National Assembly.

New Key Posts To Be Filled

SK3001082890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0759 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 30 (YONHAP)—Key posts in the party to be created by merging the ruling party and two opposition parties will be filled before Feb. 16, when registration of the merger is completed, an informed source said Tuesday [30 Jan].

The top three posts in the huge new alliance, tentatively named the Democratic Liberal Party (DLP), will be split evenly among the three parties, the source said.

The DLP secretary-general will be named by President No Tae-u's Democratic Justice Party (DJP), the floor leader will come from Kim Yong-sam's Reunification Democratic Party (RDP) and the chief policy-maker will be chosen by Kim Chong-pil's New Democratic Republican Party (NDRP), according to the source.

The source predicted the posts will go to DJP secretary-general Pak Chun-pyong, RDP Secretary-General Kim Tong-yong and NDRP chief policy-maker Kim Yong-hwan, respectively.

The five-member DLP leadership council will have the RDP leader as chairman and Kim Chong-pil and DJP chairman Pak Tae-chun as ordinary members.

The three postholders will run the new ruling party under the control of No, who will head the party, until it is formally inaugurated in a national party convention in May, at the earliest, the source said.

Three deputy secretaries-general will be drawn from the three parties.

Pak Chol-un, first state minister for political affairs and one of the architects of the "grand conservative alliance," may be named chairman of a policy coordinating committee to be set up to smooth relations among the three components, the source said.

The three parties are expected to form a floor negotiating group to keep in step during a special National Assembly session slated for February.

The new party will draw up a platform, decide on its organization and complete other procedures by early next month and will adopt the platform at a joint session.

The platform, being drawn up by the 15-member preparatory committee for the merger, will include a statement of principles on realizing national reunification, maintaining democracy and a free market system and fulfilling people's needs for welfare and their national interests, according to the source.

Assembly Speaker Embarks on Asian Tour

SK3001072690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0256 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 30 (OANA-YONHAP)—National Assembly Speaker Kim Chae-sun embarks on a tour of Australia, Thailand and Taiwan on Tuesday afternoon.

During his 17-day trip, Kim will discuss enhancing political and economic cooperation with leaders of the three nations.

He is scheduled to meet Australian Prime Minister Robert Hawke, Taiwan President Li Teng-hui, and Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan.

Airmail Services With China To Begin

SK3001020790 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 30 Jan 90 p 2

[Text] Korea will begin airmail services with Beijing via Tokyo starting Thursday the first such service with a Communist country, the Communications Ministry announced yesterday.

The ministry said surface mail services, except for parcels, will also be sent to Tianjin through Kobe, Japan.

Korea has already opened express mail services with China, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia and Romania.

The government plans to open surface mail services with 12 other Communist-bloc countries, including Albania, Cuba and Romania, by mid-February, a ministry official said.

Bulgarian Party To Call for Diplomatic Ties

SK2701101490 Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean 26 Jan 90 p 2

[Text] (Sofia AFP/YONHAP) The Bulgarian Agrarian People's Union, which has cooperated with the Bulgarian Communist Party in the National Assembly over the last 40 years, is expected to call for the establishment of diplomatic relations with the ROK, Israel, and Chile, according to a report of the official Bulgarian news agency BTA on 25 January.

Bulgaria has never had diplomatic relations with the ROK. It severed diplomatic ties with Israel in 1967 and with Chile in 1973 together with other Wawsaw Pact countries.

Cigarette 'Offensive' Succeeds, Penetrates Market

SK2701055790 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 21 Jan 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Why Should We Look With Folded Arms on the Infiltration of U.S. Cigarettes?"]

[Text] The recent remarks of secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that the market share of U.S. cigarettes in South Korea will reach 10 percent this year can be regarded as an expression of his feelings of satisfaction and confidence that the U.S. offensive, which so tenaciously drove South Korea into a corner, calling for opening its domestic markets, has now achieved "success," and has begun to bear concrete rewards. Accordingly, hearing his remarks we cannot be anything but displeased. Cigarettes are a type of luxury item, and therefore once one gets a taste for them, one can hardly change it. Cleverly capitalizing on this, U.S. tobacco companies have been trying to penetrate our domestic markets, using all possible means and methods.

On the strength of tenacious tobacco advertisement operations, like selling packets of U.S. cigarettes with gifts, posting advertisements of U.S. cigarettes on various entertainment facilities, and even posting advertisements on walls near tobacco shops in rural areas, U.S. cigarettes have now taken a firm position in South Korean domestic markets.

Today, at a time when the secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture has gone so far as to talk about the market occupation rate of U.S. cigarettes in our domestic markets, what are our government officials doing now? They have been sitting back, saying that the rate of consumption of foreign cigarettes in our country is less than 3 percent, and they talk about the need to display "patriotism" for the consumption of domestic cigarettes. On the other hand, they have also been making efforts for an increase in the consumption of U.S. cigarettes in response to the U.S. demands by revising the tax law, lowering the prices of U.S. cigarettes, and increasing the profits of retail cigarette shops which sell U.S. cigarettes.

Such insincere attitudes and happenings have also been revealed in the recent attitude of the ROK Tobacco and Ginseng Corporation, which is under government control. Smoking cigarettes itself is harmful to people's health and accordingly, the tobacco and ginseng corporation is not in the position to encourage people to smoke cigarettes. Yet, the corporation should provide good and kind services to cigarette smokers. For example, in the coffee shops in some hotels and some tourist offices, 'Mt Halla' brand, which is our best domestic brand cigarette, is not available for sale. Only foreign cigarettes, including U.S. cigarettes, are available for sale.

Anyway, a corner of the home-made cigarette market is now completely occupied with foreign cigarettes. As a result the base for domestic tobacco production has been completely destroyed and tobacco producers face a serious crisis. We urge the government to take all possible steps to rectify the difficult situation of tobacco producers.

Indian, Pakistani Aid in UN Entry Sought

SK2901015290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0135 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 29 (YONHAP)—Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung will visit Pakistan and India in March to seek support for South Korea's bid to join the United Nations and to ask the two nonaligned nations to help South Korea improve its relationship with China, Foreign Ministry sources said Monday.

Choe will visit Pakistan on March 11-13 and India on March 14-15 before embarking on a tour of eastern Europe, the sources said.

Choe's visit to the two leading countries of the third world will help Korea strengthen its diplomatic relations with the nonaligned movement, a high-ranking official said on condition of anonymity.

"Considering the close relations that Pakistan has with China, Choe's visit to Karachi is expected to result in substantial progress in improving Seoul-Beijing relations and building a favorable atmosphere for Seoul's entry into the United Nations," the official said.

Korea does not have diplomatic relations with China.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Kahn has expressed his willingness to act as an intermediary between Seoul and Beijing, he said.

The sources said the government is positively considering ways to improve relations with China through influential figures in third countries who are intimate friends of Chinese Government leaders.

Seoul-Beijing relations have been on hold since the bloody suppression of pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square last June, the official said.

He is expected to deliver letters from President No Tae-u to Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Indian Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the sources said.

POSCO Plans Joint Venture With FRG Company

SK2901064490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0528 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 29 (YONHAP)—Pohang Iron and Steel Co. (POSCO) of South Korea will send a team to West Germany soon to discuss establishing a joint venture in Europe with Mannesman Demag, a German steel company, POSCO officials said Monday.

POSCO Chairman Pak Tae-chun agreed in principle with Demag Chairman Hans Diechter to establish the joint venture during a trip to West Germany in December.

Demag is willing to open the books of all of its 28 affiliates to enable POSCO to choose the best partner for the joint venture, the officials said.

Hwang Kyong-no, a POSCO consultant, will lead the team to discuss the joint venture, which the officials said POSCO is seeking to secure a bridgehead in Europe before integration of the European market in 1992.

Air Transport Pact Signed With Saudi Arabia

SK2901065890 Seoul YONHAP in English 0648 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 29 (YONHAP)—South Korea and Saudi Arabia signed an accord Monday to waive taxes and duties for each other's air transport enterprises, the Foreign Ministry said.

The agreement not only frees them from tariffs and customs duties on equipment and materials but also from taxes on operating profits.

The pact was signed by Korea's ambassador in Riyadh, Chu Pyong-kuk, and Saudi Arabia's Finance-Economy Minister, Muhammad Aba al-Khayl.

Ministry Efforts for External Trade Outlined

SK2901024290 Seoul YONHAP in English 0204 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 29 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea's Trade and Industry Ministry said Monday it will put more effort into its external trade activities this year in order to overcome growing difficulties in international trade.

According to a report on the ministry's plan for trade policy in 1990, positive diplomatic measures are needed to beat Korea's export slowdown, ease friction with trade partners and cope with the integration of the European Economic Community, with the Uruguay Round and with reforms in communist nations.

In support of this policy, the trade and industry minister will have 27 meetings, five more than last year, with his foreign counterparts, 15 abroad and 12 at home, including the Korea-U.S. Trade minister's meeting in Washington, D.C., Feb. 12-13 and the world trade ministerial meeting in Mexico in April.

In addition, 28 working-level trade talks, eight conferences on quotas, 37 economic cooperation committees and 23 trade missions are scheduled to enhance international economic cooperation and revive the nation's sluggish exports, the report said.

Company Official Accused of Smuggling Cash

SK2901071490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0642 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Seoul, Jan. 29 (OANA-YONHAP)—A senior secretary of Samsung Business Group Chairman Yi Kun-hui is now being questioned on suspicion of attempting to smuggle cash and checks totaling 217 million won (319,117 U.S. dollars) into the United States in violation of the foreign exchange control law.

Customs officers at Los Angeles airport found the money in a bag belonging to Yi and his secretary, So Chun-hui, when they were undergoing entry procedures Jan. 11 and they confiscated it, police here said Monday.

So was carrying 11,200 dollars in cash, 17 checks of 10 million won (14,705 dollars) and 40 of 1 million won (1,470 dollars), police said.

Police will soon decide whether to book Yi on a similar charge after he returns from his trip next month.

So was detained since his arrival at the Kimpo International Airport on Friday from the United States but was released Saturday morning after being questioned about the source and purpose of the money but was brought in for further questioning Monday.

So told police the dollars were traveling expenses, and the checks were to be given to the Korean Amateur Wrestling Association and Samsung's horseriding brigade as donations because they are headed by Yi.

So reportedly said, "I did not know the money was in Yi's bag."

A spokesman at Samsung headquarters in Seoul said the checks for the donation, which is an annual practice of the group, were put into Yi's bag by mistake.

Of the cash, 5,000 dollars were for Yi, 3,000 dollars for So, and the remainder was left over from previous trips abroad, he said.

"Yi does not have to smuggle such a small amount of money because there are lots of Samsung branches in the United States," said the spokesman, who declined to be named.

The chairman of the nation's largest conglomerate is still touring Samsung's U.S. branches and is due to return in early February.

Labor Minister Optimistic About Labor Stability

SK2901020490 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English
29 Jan 90 p 3

[By staff reporter Kim Su-yong]

[Text] There may be a decline in labor unrest this year, since unionized workers are increasingly inclined to compromise with their employers, predicts the government's top labor official.

Labor Minister Choe Yong-chol says he is optimistic that union-management relations will be stabilized to a certain degree, though there still exist some factors which could destabilize labor relations.

In an exclusive interview with The KOREA HERALD yesterday, he said, "It seems that employees and employers have learned a lesson that prolonged confrontation between them is beneficial to none of them in long-run."

The nation has been hit by strikes since June 29, 1987 when the government announced sweeping democratic reforms, including the introduction of direct presidential elections.

"There is also a public consensus that a worsening of labor-management relations could have a catastrophic impact on the economy," Choe said.

"And the economy is not in good shape," he said. "I believe workers generally are inclined to seek a compromise with management."

Nevertheless, he said he does not expect that labor relations will be smooth all the way this year.

First of all, "Chonnohyop" could fan labor unrest, he said.

In defiance of a government ban, labor activists, aided by political dissidents and students, last Monday inaugurated Chonnohyop or the National Council of Labor Unions, independent of the sole government-approved Federation of Korean Trade Unions (FKTU).

Some 800 people gathered on a university campus to inaugurate the hard-line labor organization and elected Tan Pyong-ho, wanted by police, its first president. Tan disappeared following a 10-minute acceptance speech.

In order to ensure industrial peace, Choe said, third-party involvement in labor disputes, particularly by Chonnohyop, will be strictly restricted.

The minister said the government will not recognize the legal status of Chonnohyop because it "advocates class struggles to overthrow the government and instigate illegal strikes." He said that Chonnohyop is demanding a huge 22 percent pay hike for this year.

He noted that Chonnohyop last year organized numerous illegal strikes by workers in the Inchon, Masan and Changwon areas.

Chonnohyop has said it has a membership of 169,000 from about 500 individual trade unions, compared to the FKTU's 1.7 million.

The minister contended that employers generally have so far been compelled to accept excessive demands by employees to keep their plants open.

"The situation should be corrected for the health of our economy," he said.

Choe said his ministry has come up with a set of guidelines for cracking down on illegal union activities.

For example, unionized workers will virtually be prohibited from demanding wages during strikes in accordance with the much talked-about principle of "no work, no pay."

In a sign of moderate union activities, he said, workers of the nation's largest carmaker, Hyundai Motor, recently accepted the principle.

However, labor experts said it is doubtful whether all the unionized workers, especially those affiliated with the outlawed Chonnohyop, will honor the guidelines.

Minister Choe said he has plans to upgrade the status of labor relations commissions which serve as a mediator between unions and management to help expedite the settlement of labor disputes.

"Doing so will help resolve labor problem, although the commissions have often come under fire for their authoritarian image in dealing with employees and employers," he said.

Commenting on reports that an increasing number of foreign-invested firms are pulling out of Korea, Choe said he is worried that more foreign companies will do so because of their "declining profits and loss of investment incentives."

The ministry will see to it that bankrupt foreign firms pay severance and other legal allowances to their workers. Management of the folding firms should notify workers of their plans to close down well before the closure takes place, he said.

He urged that unionized workers minimize their demands lets they lose their jobs.

The Labor Ministry had unsuccessfully attempted to have foreign firms put aside certain amounts of money to prevent them from pulling out of Korea abruptly.;

In line with the government effort to lessen a sense of "relative poverty and deprivation" among workers, Choe said his ministry will strive to improve the lot of workers.

The government is planning to construct a total of 250,000 apartments for low-paid workers by 1992 while seeking to ease the tax burden on workers, according to the minister.

The government also will overhaul the tax system, and real estate and financial transaction system to alleviate workers' dissatisfaction over the distribution of wealth, the minister said.

* Background of New Economic Council Explained

902C0080A Seoul CHUGAN MAEKYONG in Korean 30 Nov 89 pp 44-47

[Article by Cho Kyong-yop: "Reasons Behind the Formation of the National Council of Economic Organizations"]

[Text] The private-sector business community has thrown itself into solving labor-management disputes in earnest.

Believing that whether or not our economy can recover from current setbacks depends more on solving labor-management disputes smoothly than on anything else, the six major economic organizations have decided to make an all-out joint effort to ward off labor disputes stirred by unlawful radical forces.

The six major economic organizations—Korea Employers' Federation (KEF), the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Federation of Korean Industries [FKI], Korea Foreign Trade Association, Korea Federation of Small Business, and Korea Federation of Banks—have agreed to organize the "National Council of Economic Organizations" [NCEO] in order to deal with labor-management disputes.

"Stable Labor-Management Relations, Only Way To Survive"

The NCEO, as a machinery for employers to jointly counter the moves on the part of activist labor groups including the National Council of Trade Unions (NCTU), is expected to engage in extensive activities.

At a hastily arranged joint press conference at the Press Center on the morning of 16 November, the six major economic organizations disclosed their decision on the formation of the NCEO and issued an "appeal to the workers and citizens" saying in essence that the NCEO would actively cope with any interference by radical forces of violence in labor-management disputes.

During the press conference, representing the economic organizations, KEF Chairman Yi Tong-chan explained the background saying that "in the past three years businessmen have patiently dealt with unlawful, violent labor disputes. But under the circumstances in which our economy is faced with increasing difficulty, if our economy becomes engulfed in violent labor disputes, it will be thrown into a state beyond recovery." He added, "Judging that now is the time for businessmen to take a joint action, we have decided to inaugurate NCEO.

In their appeal, the leaders of the business organizations present said that the private-sector business community would jointly counter the interference by violent, radical forces in labor disputes and demanded that "the government exercise its public power to ward off such disputes." They solemnly declared that "businessmen will protect and preserve the free market system with a firm determination to overcome national difficulties."

The NCEO is working hard to complete the formation of its national, industrial, and regional organizations and swing into action as soon as possible.

A consultative meeting was held on 17 November under the NCEO sponsorship with the chairmen of conglomerates, including those of Samsung, Hyundai, Daewoo, Lucky-Goldstar, and their executives in charge of labor. At the meeting Chairman Yi briefed them on the background of the formation of the NCEO and called for their cooperation. Reportedly, each group reacted favorably.

The NCEO will establish its office in the Korea Employers Federation building and set up an executive committee and industrial and regional countermeasures committees before swinging into action.

In an effort to complete its organizational structuring as soon as possible, the NCEO this week summoned officials of more than 30 major industries, such as electronic, machine, automobile, cotton textile, chemical fiber, cement, and steel, and is still consulting with them on matters relating to organizing a joint countermeasures committee in each industry. At the same time, under a plan to form regional countermeasures committees in coordination with local chapters of economic organizations and with employers' organizations in major industrial complexes such as those in Masan, Changwon, Ulsan, and Kuro, the NCEO is currently meeting with officials of these local organizations, day in and day out.

Triggered by Formation of NCTU

The reason that the private-sector business community has suddenly pushed ahead with forming the NCEO in a hurry is that business circles share the common judgement that all things taken together, the most important factor in our economy in the next year would be labor-management disputes.

It is their judgment that whatever measures the government may take to perk up the economy, they would not prove effective unless labor-management relations stabilize. It may be said that the current general view of enterprises is that "even if the interest rates were lowered by a certain percent, or even if the value of the won were depreciated in order to boost exports, these measures would be of no avail if labor disputes should intensify."

Particularly, the immediate momentum for pushing for the formation of the NCEO came from the organizational strengthening of activist labor forces including the move to organize the NCTU.

The national council of local and industrial trade unions calling for "democratic unionism" decided to organize the NCTU next January and recently launched a full-fledged preparatory work by, for instance, convening a national labor congress. This has stirred a keen sense of crisis among private economic circles. In addition, widely prevalent among economic circles is the judgement that when active labor forces, including those pushing for the formation of the NCTU, consolidate their organization and become active in labor disputes beginning next year, it will make it all the more difficult to settle labor disputes.

During the 16 November joint press conference of the six major economic organizations, when asked "Don't you anticipate that the violent radical labor forces will soon align themselves with the NCTU?" KEF chairman Yi Tong-chan replied that "I don't think so." However, when he said that "clearly, the NCTU is not a lawful organization, he in effect indirectly recognized its potential influence.

Particularly in the appeal issued at the press conference, the six major organizations pointed out that "violent radical forces are currently consolidating their organization toward the goal of organizing the NCTU next January, claiming that increased productivity is proof of the weakening of our will to struggle and 'industrial peace is our enemy.'" This appeal graphically illustrates the negative view of the private-sector business community toward the NCTU.

In addition, the private-sector business community anticipates that when the activist labor forces become more powerful, the Federation of Korea Trade Unions (FKTU)—which corporations recognize as their negotiating partner—will have no choice but to take note of the influence of the activist labor forces and come up with a clear-cut stand in opposition to management, making it all the more difficult for management to deal with labor disputes. This anticipation had a great influence on the decision to organize the NCEO.

The management side also foresees the "politicization" of labor disputes as labor shifts from demanding wage hikes and improved welfare to clamoring for sharing the rights to run the business and take personnel actions. So, another reason for the formation of the NCEO is to forestall this politicization. The rebuttal of businessmen is: Who would be willing to run a business if the right to management should be conceded to labor even partially?

With labor-management disputes brought into relief by enterprises as the central issue confronting their business operations, KEF—the existing machinery specializing in dealing with labor disputes—feels itself to be too weak to cope with the new situation and thus decided to organize the NCEO with the participation of all economic organizations.

Driving Wedge Into Political Struggle

On the other hand, we have the impression that the formation of the NCEO by private-sector economic organizations was in step with the increasingly firm stand of the government toward labor disputes.

The Ministry of Labor time and time again declared that it would deal strongly with labor disputes stirred by unlawful radical elements.

The procuratorial authorities have also expressed their strong determination to throw in public power to deal with illegal labor disputes in its early stage, declaring that "from the national security point of view, we will sternly punish the violent leftist forces who have recently infiltrated the labor community."

It may be a reflection of this strong stand of the government that recently there has emerged the phenomenon of rapidly increasing cases of public power thrown into the scenes of labor disputes.

Regarding their recent appeal, the leaders of economic organizations have strongly denied any government involvement by saying that "there has been no prior consultation whatsoever with the government." But judging from the fact the appeal coincided with the government's economic stimulation measures, it seems that the appeal had something to with these measures.

At any rate, the private-sector business community is expected to cope with the future moves of the activist labor forces jointly and strongly through the NCEO, not only from the point of view of its own business interests but also from the "long-term" point of view of "protecting the market economic system." Be that as it may, some businessmen and labor experts take a somewhat critical view of the latest action taken by the private-sector business community.

According to their opinion, the business community has suddenly come out with strong countermeasures at a time when the atmosphere in favor of self-restraint on labor disputes was spreading naturally, and when moves were afoot on the part of the FKTU and other labor organizations to exercise self-restrain on labor disputes next year, and these measures impair this atmosphere. They say that particularly with regard to the NCTU, which is yet to be organized, the business community takes too strong and hasty a reaction, branding it as a radical organization of violence.

It has been belatedly reported that some business organizations raised a mild objection to the recent appeal on the grounds that its tone is "too strong."

Tak Hui-chun, chairman of the Korean Labor Dispute Voluntary Mediation Council, pointed out that "I have the impression that business organizations intend to deal with the labor movement regarding it as a class struggle." He added, "in the sense that this is the time to make great efforts to establish reasonable rules for dealing with labor disputes in our country, the formation of the NCEO is a hasty step, which I am afraid may provoke countermeasures in the nature of a class struggle."

Meanwhile, Kim Kum-su, chairman of Korea Labor Education Association, pointed out that "the logic of capitalism may demand strong countermeasures, but branding the NCTU an illegal organization does not accord with logic." He said: "Now is the time to search for the way to achieve labor-management harmony by instituting a system of labor participation in management, but it is doubtful whether what the business community is doing now will stabilize labor-management relations."

The contention of some experts on labor issues is that on the slightest provocation, the formation of the NCEO may lead to an all-out confrontation between the business community and the activist labor forces, further complicating labor disputes. According to them, an attempt to organize business organizations to counter the organization of labor could be a natural reaction, but no one can overlook the fact that this attempt has also the possibility of further aggravating the pattern of labor-management confrontation.

Already labor organizations, one after another, have reacted unfavorably to the announcement of the decision of the six major economic organizations to organize the NCEO and the release of their appeal.

The FKTU issued a statement on 16 November saying that "the basic responsibility for the excessive behavior at some work places in the past rests with the public authorities who have abused powers to constrain by control and suppression the basic rights of the workers guaranteed by the Constitution, and with the attitude of employers toward their workers."

Calling for "the revision and thoroughgoing observance of the Labor Relations Law and for the epochal and speedy implementation of economic democracy, the FKTU criticized that "business organizations are bent upon suppressing the labor movement under the pretext of organizing the NCEO."

Meanwhile, on the 17 November the National Council of Local and Industrial Trade Union Federations pointed out that "during the first half of the year the capitalist side intentionally prolonged strikes to destroy democratic trade unions." The council reacted to the announcement on the NCEO by saying that "judging from the fact that the announcement came on the heels of the 14 November government statement to the effect that impure elements have infiltrated our national council, the decision to form the NCEO is aimed at blocking the formation of the NCTU."

Given this strong opposition on the part of the labor community, what tough role the NCEO will play depends on the cooperation of various business groups.

Even if the NCEO intends to cope strongly with labor disputes by organizing industrial and local joint countermeasures committees, it would be unable to produce any significant results if major groups should remain aloof from it. One wrong move, and they may bring about nothing but discordance to the economic community.

Suppression of Labor Movement

Presently major business groups have their own measures to deal with labor disputes. But the basic stance of the NCEO is that labor disputes will be dealt with jointly through industrial and regional cooperation. In the 16 November appeal, it is specifically said in what may be a reference to some groups that "we will not condone egocentric enterprises seeking to remain alive alone." In response, some economic organizations pointed out that "in many cases in the past, some solvent enterprises led the way by providing wage increases in order to tide over the crisis, thus throwing other enterprises, particularly small and medium-size businesses, deeper into the vortex of labor disputes. Some economic organizations made it clear that "we will strongly demand that from now on, joint steps be taken through the NCEO in allowing wage increases."

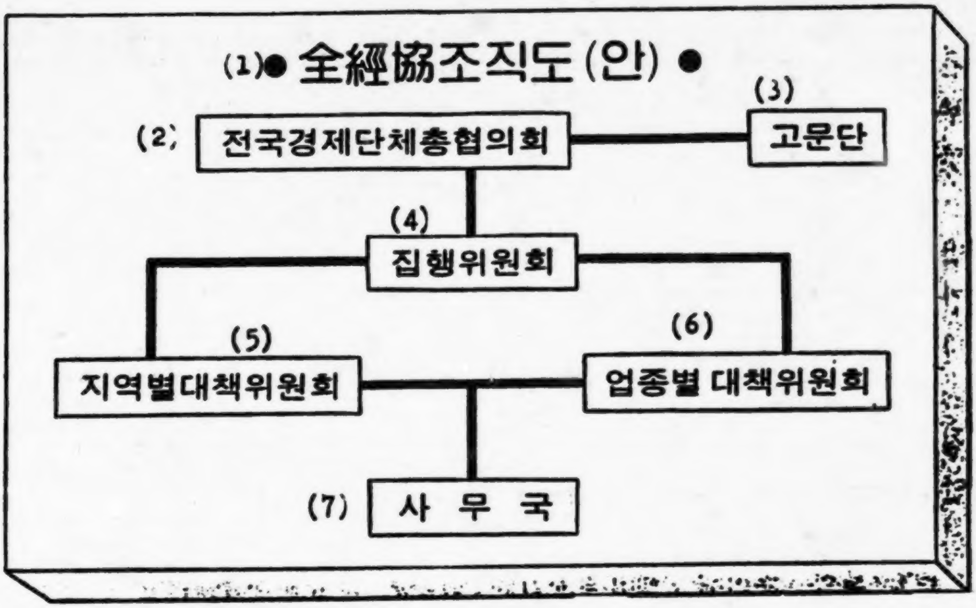
In the case of the Samsung group, adhering to the principle of out-and-out negation of trade unionism, has been pursuing its own policy on dealing with labor disputes by having only one of its affiliated firms, namely, Cheil Sugar, join the KEF. Samsung has few trade unions compared with other conglomerates, and it is dealing with labor disputes from the stand point of providing higher wages and better welfare benefits. Fearing that participation in KEF might irritate workers, Samsung put off participation in that organization, but reportedly is making better use of various materials made available by the KEF than any other company.

Sonkyong, Ssanyong, and other groups which have comparatively less labor disputes do recognize trade unions but have had little trouble solving labor disputes.

The Samsung, Sonkyong, and Ssangyong groups, anticipating that labor disputes will continue through the early 1990's in our country, are known to have their own strategies for dealing with labor disputes by complying with demands for wage hikes and other demands with a view toward achieving stable labor-management relations.

Therefore, it is expected that these groups pursuing their independent strategies will find it burdensome to cope with labor disputes jointly through the NCEO on the grounds that doing so could anger the workers.

In the final analysis, under the circumstances in which there are some gaps between the way different groups view labor disputes, the business community is greatly



Key:
1. NCEO Organization Chart (Draft)
2. NCEO
3. Advisory group
4. Executive committee
5. Regional countermeasures committees
6. Industrial countermeasures committees
7. Secretariat

concerned about how business groups will be able to fall in step with one another while narrowing the gaps between their views.

In addition, even though economic organizations at their meeting reaffirmed their stand in favor of joint steps, there is room for doubts as to how their joint strategy will work in actual disputes because each work place has its unique labor disputes.

At any rate we hope that the NCEO will play its role as a machinery for solving labor disputes through dialogues between labor and management, instead of confronting the workers face to face in its capacity as an employers' arm to cope jointly with labor disputes.

Burma

Government Preparing Attack on Karen Strongholds

BK2801030390 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 28 Jan 90 p 2

[Text] Mae Sot—Burmese troops have begun shelling two Karen strongholds north and south of Mae Sot in a move local sources see as a preparation for a large-scale attack.

The sources said Burmese forces yesterday began shelling Kawmura camp of the Karens' 101st Special Battalion, south of this border town, from two hills.

More than 30 rounds of 81mm and 82mm mortars landed inside the Karen camp during the bombardment, which lasted for more than an hour.

Sporadic exchanges of gunfire were also heard on the Thai side from another Karen stronghold at Ban Wang Kaeo, about 20 kilometres north of the district town.

The sources said about 4,000 Burmese troops had been deployed on the two hills and were poised to launch final assaults on the two Karen camps today or tomorrow.

Rangoon troops yesterday captured a small Karen camp, Mawkier, south of Myawadi opposite Mae Sot.

Two Burmese graders were heard repairing the road from Myawadi to Mawkier, which also links with a rebel major stronghold, Valey, about 60 kilometres south of the district opposite Phop Phra.

The rebels retreated from Mawkier on Thursday—after burning down sawmills and other structures in the camp—to join other rebels defending Valey.

Rebels told Thai black marketeers not to enter Valey yesterday, because booby traps and mines had been laid around the camp in preparation for the Burmese attack.

Villagers living around Valey camp crossed the Moei River to take refuge in Thailand.

About 2,000 Burmese troops were reported moving south from Myawadi and expected to capture the camp within a day or two, the sources said, adding rebels had sent several guerrilla units to intercept and harass Government forces closing on Valey and Kawmura.

51 More Political Parties Allocated Symbols

BK3001035590 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] The Commission for Multiparty Democratic General Elections of the Union of Myanma [Burma] issued Announcement No 370, dated 29 January 1990—the 4th day of the waxing moon of Tabodwe, 1351 Myanma era. The announcement reads:

Subject: Allocating Symbols for Candidates Representing Political Parties

1. The Commission for Multiparty Democratic General Elections, in accordance with rulings under By-law No 106 of the People's Assembly Election Law and after consultation with the political parties concerned on 29 January 1990, has allocated the following symbols to candidates representing political parties and organizations which are competing in between three and four constituencies:

1. All-Burma United Youth Organization—bucket symbol
2. Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League—hammer
3. Burma United Democratic Party—flask
4. Patriotic Youth Organization—ballpoint pen
5. National Progressive Youth of Burma—megaphone
6. Zomi National Congress—lock
7. Democratic Labor Party, Burma—xylophone
8. United National Congress—hat
9. Patriotic Old Comrades League—flute
10. Patriotic Democratic Youth Front, Burma—slate
11. Youth Solidarity Front, Union of Myanma—Pyit-tine-htaung [self-uprighting doll with rounded, loaded base]
12. Shan National Development Democratic Party, Union of Myanma—rake
13. Democratic People's League, DPL - gourd
14. Union for the Improvement of Burmese Women, Central Headquarters—Sibon [women's ornamental headwear]
15. People's Power Party, PPP—handbag
16. Karen State National Organization—violin
17. National Peace Party—shirt
18. Free People League of Burma—envelope
19. Union of Kachin Youths led by Kachin University Students—hoe
20. Arakan Nationalities Democracy Party—helicopter
21. National Peace and Comfort Party, NPCP—pineapple
22. Arakan Students and Youths League for Mayu Development—sickle
23. Union of Myanma Unity Democracy League—lotus
24. Farmer, Gadu, Ganan, and Shan National Unity Democratic Headquarters, Banmauk—shovel
25. Kokang Democracy and Unity Party—anchor
26. Peasants Development Party—dobat short drum
27. Shan State Kachin Democratic Party—ceiling fan
28. Union Danu League for Democracy—box
29. National Ethnic Reformation Party Headquarters—saw
30. People's Pioneer Party—table
31. Kamans National League for Democracy—hamper
32. Democratic Organization for Kayan National Unity—pumpkin
33. Mara People's Party—sheaf of paddy
34. Mro or Khami national Solidarity Organization—water tap
35. Amyotha Party—pestle and mortar
36. Might of New Generation Youth Front, Burma—camera
37. Inn-tha national Organization—kite

38. Rakhine National Humanitarian Development Organization—soon-ok [traditional food container]
39. Indigenous Race Collaboration Party—mailbox
40. Union People's Future and Democracy Party—cabinet
41. United League of Democratic Parties—traditional harp
42. National Politics Front, Youth—shuttlecock
43. Party for National Democracy—Hne wind instrument
44. United Nationalities League for Democracy—saingwaing [circular frame with drums or gongs]
45. Union of Myanma Democratic Front—gramophone
46. League of Democratic Alliance—Chinlon cane ball
47. People's Peasants Union, Union of Myanma—plow
48. Leading Strength of National Realism Central—kalut ne paysar [scroll on ornamental salver]
49. Democratic Allies' League—coconut
50. Union Stability Party, USB—drinking bowl
51. Shan State Kokang Democratic Party—scissors

By the authority vested in me

Signed: Aye Maung, secretary

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

Aid To Resettle Boat People Offered to SRV

BK3001083790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0815 GMT 30 Jan 90

[By Mervin Nambiar]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 30 (AFP)—Malaysia Tuesday said it would offer Vietnam financial help to resettle boat people as a delegation of top officials left here for Hanoi for talks on the fate of more than 20,000 Vietnamese refugees. "This (financial help) is one of the points we are looking at. The general principles will be discussed in Hanoi but not the details," Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar said.

Senior Malaysian Foreign Ministry officials have said that they are studying Britain's mandatory repatriation of boat people from Hong Kong under which Hanoi is reportedly paid 600 U.S. dollars to defray costs of resettling each Vietnamese.

The delegation, which will hold talks in Hanoi from January 31 to February 3, is headed by Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Ahmad Kamil Jaafar, Malaysia's top diplomat, officials said.

Malaysia had previously offered economic aid to help Vietnam rehabilitate its economy but the offer has been loosely tied to Hanoi's willingness to discourage illegal departures of its people, diplomats said.

Mr. Abu Hassan said the Malaysian officials would impress upon Hanoi the need to stop all illegal departures from Vietnam's shores and instead speed up the so-called Orderly Departure Programme to allow legal departures for resettlement abroad. "The delegation will also discuss voluntary repatriation, how this process can be speeded up, and involuntary repatriation since we are coming to that phase of the problem," he said.

Mr. Abu Hassan said that "a few hundreds" of the more than 20,000 Vietnamese boat people in Malaysian camps had been screened to separate economic migrants from political refugees. He said that in keeping with decisions reached at the international conference on Indochinese refugees in Geneva in June, all those failing to qualify as genuine political refugees would be repatriated.

"We hope Vietnam will accept them because without its acceptance (of boat people) we cannot solve the problem," Mr. Abu Hassan said. He said that all parties to follow-up talks in Geneva last week accepted the principle of forced repatriation although they disagreed on when it should start.

"As far as we are concerned we do not view the recent talks in Geneva as a failure," Mr. Abu Hassan said, adding that most countries of first asylum were willing to put off forced repatriation until mid-year, but the U.S. did not want it to start until January 1, 1991.

Western diplomats said that Malaysia was continuing a hardline policy towards boat people by pushing out new arrivals in the hope of deterring an influx after March when weather conditions improve. They said that there were some 3,500 known cases of boat people pushed off Malaysian shores since the programme began in June last year. Those pushed off landed in Indonesia.

"The pushoffs are done in the most humane way possible under the circumstances," a Western diplomat said, adding that the Vietnamese were given food, medical supplies and water before being towed out to sea.

"You can always tell whether a Vietnamese is from Malaysia. He usually smells good from the soap he is given," the diplomat said.

Malaysian officials have complained that unabated new arrivals not matched by resettlements were stretching resources at refugee camps.

Government Bans 14 Books, Publications

BK2901061090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0605 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Jan 29 (AFP)—Malaysia has banned 14 books and publications, labeling them threats to public security and morality, THE STAR newspaper said Monday.

The order prohibiting the circulation of the books was signed by Deputy Home Minister Megat Junid Ayub on behalf of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed, who is also the home minister.

A government notification dated December 14 said "Woman and the Family" by Leon Trotsky, "Arguments for Revolutionary Socialism" by John Molyneux, and "Problems of Lu Hsun" translated and noted by Huang Hsin Chyu, were all banned for being prejudicial to public order and security.

Four books in English and seven in Chinese were also banned for being prejudicial to morality.

Cambodia

U.S. Congressmen 'Concerned' Over Khmer Rouge

BK2901124990 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1056 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 29—"We are concerned that any U.S. effort directly or indirectly to promote a power-sharing role for the Khmer Rouge—no matter how minimal—would represent an implicit legitimization of movement the world finds [words indistinct] and would constitute a profound shift in our policy," says a letter sent recently by a large group of US congressmen to US Secretary of State James A. Baker.

The letter, dated November 29, 1989 and signed by 177 representatives and 26 senators, asks James Baker to explain the US policy toward Cambodia. It says :

"We are troubled by recent press accounts of a U.S. effort to support a Khmer Rouge role in a national Cambodian government. We would like to understand more fully U.S. policy toward Cambodia and would welcome some clarification from you directly.

"Last summer, in Paris, you reaffirmed the U.S. position that the Khmer Rouge should play no role in Cambodia's future; yet, you indicated that we could accept a role for the Khmer Rouge in an interim arrangement acceptable to all the Cambodian parties.

"The present tragic situation in Cambodia is due in large measure to the lingering effects of the Khmer Rouge reign of terror. In light of this, we have great reservations about U.S. support for a plan that would permit the Khmer Rouge to regain power legitimately. The fact that the Khmer Rouge regain [words indistinct] menacing force in Cambodia is not in itself a justification for inviting them to participate in a government of national reconciliation.

"The people of Cambodia must be accorded the right of self-determination. We ourselves undermine that right if we seek to [word indistinct] a role for a group that once governed by wanton cruelty and fear. Nothing about the Khmer Rouge suggests political arrangement or abide by the laws of a democratic government. [sentence as received]

"This is an important time to pause and jointly reflect on the direction of our policy toward Cambodia. We recognize that virtually all of the available diplomatic options are dismaying and that, at least for the next several months, Cambodians face additional warfare and suffering. Of all possible diplomatic solutions, however, the most objectionable would be one that paves the way for a return to power by the Khmer Rouge. If we even reluctantly serve as their advocate, there will be little hope of forestalling this [word indistinct].

"We would appreciate your providing us with a clarification of U.S. policy. In particular, we would ask that you describe the circumstances under which the U.S. could countenance any power sharing arrangement, interim or otherwise, which includes the Khmer Rouge. A thoughtful exchange on U.S. policy for the region would be useful before we move forward.

"We look forward to hearing from you soon."

Mat Ly Receives U.S. Scientists' Group Leader

BK3001092990 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Comrade Mat Ly, member of the party Central Committee Political Bureau, vice chairman of the National Assembly, and chairman of Cambodia's Federation of Trade Unions, received James Dixon, chairman of the U.S. National Academy of Sciecne, at the presidium of the National Assembly in the afternoon of 29 January.

Comrade Mat Ly briefed James Nixon on the proceedings of the 18th session of the State of Cambodia's National Assembly and its extraordinary session which was held last April.

He said that during the extraordinary session, the National Assembly amended a number of articles of the Constitution with the aim of upgrading the role of the National Assembly, enlarging the Council of State, and increasing the prerogatives of the Council of Ministers and the powers of the People's Supreme Court.

During the 17th session, the National Assembly also endorsed the appointment of Pung Pengcheng as minister assistant to the comrade chairman of the Council of Ministers and Mrs Pung Pengcheng as member of the Council of State.

Comrade Mat Ly stressed that so far we have sufficiently built a legal basis to support the identity of our society with honor, dignity, and the people's right to self-determination. He also informed his guest of the people's efforts and sacrifices made in the defense and reconstruction of their country while overcoming all the serious consequences left behind by the genocidal Pol Pot regime. He said that the people throughout the country are welcoming the fact that the party and government of the State of Cambodia have announced the new open-door economic policy and are most actively participating in implementing it.

Comrade Mat Ly went on to say that while scoring all the achievements above, the Cambodian people are fighting back the destructive attacks of the three reactionary Khmer groups, which have the Pol Potists as their backbone. Our people are determined never to allow the genocidal regime to return to Cambodia.

Speaking on this occasion, James Dixon deeply thanked Comrade Mat Ly for informing him of these important developments which, to him, constituted highly invaluable information. He said that, like the rest of the American people, he closely followed the Cambodian situation and that he greatly admired the Government of the State of Cambodia for seeking by all means to bring true peace, happiness, and well-being to the Cambodian people.

Hun Sen Receives Visiting British Journalist

BK2901125390 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1106 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK January 29—Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers and foreign minister, has received John Pedler, chairman of the British non-governmental organization Cambodian Trust and correspondent of the FINANCIAL TIMES.

Chairman Hun Sen briefed his guest on the latest developments around a solution to the Cambodian problem, especially France's recent initiatives. He supported French President Francois Mitterrand's statement made shortly before the meeting of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council in Paris concerning the real situation in Cambodia.

Hun Sen further said that the Government of the State of Cambodia welcomes the stance of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council but remains concerned over the meeting's failure to mention any effective measure to prevent the recurrence of the genocidal Pol Pot regime and a civil war in Cambodia. He added that France's stance was an encouragement to the Cambodian people who are all-out for a political solution and national reconciliation.

In reply, J. Pedler expressed his satisfaction at his recent tour of Cambodia. He said what was seen during the visit to the northwestern border province of Battambang and the central province of Kompong Thom have helped him better understand the reality in Cambodia and the local people's great efforts in national reconstruction over the past years.

He said when back home he would find a way to inform the British public of what he had seen in Cambodia, especially the country's security and development, since the total withdrawal of Vietnamese Army volunteers last September.

Hopes for Japanese Official's Visit Viewed

OW2901141390 Tokyo KYODO in English 1251 GMT 29 Jan 90

[by Yutaka Negishi]

[Text] Phnom Penh, Jan. 29 KYODO—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen is ready to meet a senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official next month marking the first contact between Tokyo and the Phnom Penh government, a government source said Monday. Japan, which supports the resistance movement, does not recognize the Hun Sen government.

"The highest leader of this country" is ready to meet the official, the source said, and expressed a keen interest in the visit, the first by a Japanese official since the Phom Penh government was installed by Vietnam in 1979. The official's visit will represent a more objective view of Cambodia by Tokyo after 11 years of hostility toward Cambodia, the source said.

"It's better late than never," the source added in reference to the planned visit by Masaharu Kono, director of the Foreign Ministry's Southeast Asian Affairs Division.

The use of the term "highest leader of the country for day-to-day affairs" normally means Hun Sen, who is concurrently foreign minister, though communist party leader Heng Samrin is No. 1 in the party hierarchy.

During a visit to Bangkok earlier this month, Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama told Thai Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan that Tokyo planned to send an envoy to Phnom Penh for talks with Cambodian officials on an economic rehabilitation program which could be implemented when peace is restored there.

Kono's visit was announced in Tokyo last Friday.

Nakayama said at that time, however, that the visit will not change Japan's policy toward Cambodia and that he is convinced that the coalition government led by Prince Norodom Sihanouk will understand Japan's position.

Japan and Australia share the chairmanship of a committee for Cambodia's reconstruction which was set up at international Cambodian peace negotiations held in Paris in August last year.

The official's visit to Cambodia comes at a time when there is a growing impetus for a peaceful settlement of the 11-year-old Cambodian problem.

A new round of Cambodian peace talks is expected late next month in Jakarta. Indonesia and France are cochairing the Paris peace talks, which broke up over disagreement on power shring among four warring factions.

Hun Sen represented Phnom Penh both at the Paris and previous Jakarta meetings. Discussions at the forthcoming Jakarta meeting are likely to focus on an Australian peace initiative seeking greater involvement by the United Nations in bringing peace to Cambodia.

Deputy Foreign Minister on UN Proposals

PM2601154490 Paris L'HUMANITE in French 22 Jan 90 p 12

[Jean-Pierre Delahaye dispatch: "Peace and Stability"]

[Text] Phnom Penh—"The time is right to find a solution to the problem," Cambodian Deputy Foreign Minister Soc An said in Phnom Penh on Friday. The Cambodian foreign ministry official first stated that, from the start of the conflict, his government had made numerous efforts to promote the negotiation process and achieve national reconciliation. "It is our desire for peace and stability which guides us," he said. "This must not be interpreted as a sign of weakness under any circumstances."

Soc An said he is "fairly satisfied" with the meeting of representatives of the five UN Security Council permanent members on 8 and 9 January in Paris. He stressed that, since 9 December, Cambodia, through Prime Minister Hun Sen, has advocated free, fair, and democratic elections with UN monitoring. The Cambodian deputy foreign minister stated, however, that a very important point had been left out of the 16 proposals put forward by the Five—preventing the return of the genocide regime. "This is our main concern, but also the problem of all Cambodians. It cannot be avoided," he said, also expressing regret at the fact that the Five did not discuss the possibility of leaving Cambodia's UN seat "vacant" (it is currently occupied by a Khmer Rouge representative).

With regard to the "transitional period" before the elections are held, Soc An said that "during that period" the status quo will have to be maintained and the situation in the field frozen. The Khmer minister said that this status quo must not be changed before the election, because he thinks that "would create complications" which might benefit the Khmer Rouge.

For instance, he stressed, it is impossible to call into question the country's sovereignty at a time when world opinion is starting to change: "Ours is a sovereign state," he added. "The Sihanoukist units and those of Son Sann (the pro-American armed opposition faction—L'HUMANITE editor's note) have lost many of their active forces," and Soc An expressed the view that they are no longer capable of advancing beyond the positions they now occupy a few kilometers from the Thai border. "The same is not true of the Pol Potists," the deputy foreign minister stressed. The people responsible for the Cambodian genocide "forced others to fight in their place to keep intact their armed forces in order to use them soon. For this reason too it is irresponsible to try to dismantle our government."

In view of this fact, the Cambodian deputy foreign minister thinks that the creation of a national council (during the interim period, as the five Security Council members suggest) including representatives of the two sides in the conflict and formed in a balanced way, could be a solution for working with the representatives sent to the country by the United Nations.

Phnom Penh also discussed another possibility: This national council could also comprise prominent figures "appointed" by the two sides, but who would sit on the council on a private basis alongside the official delegations. "In both cases, we could thus avoid the problem of recognizing the Khmer Rouge. Prince Sihanouk, the head of the antigovernment coalition, would thus have to accept responsibility for his choices...."

The Cambodian minister then said that it was possible for a future informal conference to be held in Jakarta in February, adding that the Phnom Penh government had no special demands relating to the composition of its participants. He expressed the hope that this would provide an opportunity to discuss all the different plans so far put forward to try to find a solution to the Cambodian problem: Thai Prime Minister Chatchai's proposals, the moratorium on arms supplies to the warring factions advocated by the USSR, and the peace plan (based on the Namibian formula) drawn up by Australia's Gareth Evans.

Assembly Session Adjourns, To Resume 31 Jan

BK3001050890 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] On the morning of 30 January, from 0700 onward, the 18th session of the first National Assembly busily continues its work in accordance with the agenda.

This morning, assembly members listened to profound explanations by the Ministry of Education, the Directorate of the Voice of the Cambodian People's Radio, the Ministry of Disabled Combatants and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Industry, and the Ministry of Communications and Posts, in reply to related questions and requests of various constituencies.

The assembly adjourned its session at 0900 and will resume tomorrow morning.

Bou Thang Closes Army Political Course

BK2701070090 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1200 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Summary] A meeting was recently held at the army's party training school to close the first successful political training course for 1989-90 under the chairmanship of General Bou Thang, member of the party Central Committee, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, and chief of the General Political Department of the Cambodian People's army.

After a report presented by the school director, Major (Dam Dararith), to review past achievements scored by the school, Gen Bou Thang urged newly-trained cadres and combatants to continue their active struggle against enemies, to strengthen their internal and international solidarities, and to effectively promote democratic principles within the party. He also called on all party members at all levels to step up their efforts in the control, party, and political works and to vigorously develop the party membership both in quantity and quality.

17 Dec-20 Jan Military Activities Summarized

BK2901053590 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 0430 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] From 17 December 1989 to 20 January 1990, the enemy continued to fire artillery shells and attack our positions, for example those held by Divisions 4, 6, and 286, and in the Sre Noy area and Varin District in Siem Reap Province. Inside the country, the enemy savagely and brutally plundered our people's paddy, rice, and property, such as in Pursat, Battambang, and Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Provinces.

In the same period, although the enemy kept pressure and provided support fire for its troops, our Armed Forces managed to expand their spirit to fight and ambush the enemy and score successive results. Our Armed Forces clashed with the enemy 54 times, putting out of action 806 enemy soldiers, including 720 killed, 31 taken prisoners; and 53 others surrendered. [all figures as received] We seized 115 weapons, 125 mines, and a large number of other war materiel.

Radio Reports Battles in Preah Vihear Province

BK2901141790 Phnom Penh Domestic Service in Cambodian 1300 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] According to reports from Preah Vihear Province, our Armed Forces, in close cooperation with the local state authorities and people, have conducted sweeping operations against the three groups of bandits, who have attempted to infiltrate some areas of the province for the purpose of massacring our people and destroying their properties, inflicting serious damage on them.

On 21 January, our Armed Forces in Kulen District during a search-and-destroy operation engaged a group of Pol Potist troops in battle. As a result, we killed nine enemy soldiers and seized two B-40 rocket launchers, three AK's, a field radio, and some war materiel. The remaining enemy troops were forced to shamefully retreat into the jungle carrying a number of their wounded comrades.

The report only gives a short account of the successes scored by our Armed Forces in Preah Vihear Province. These victories show that the provincial Armed Forces have developed a position of strength and victory over the three groups of bandits, plunging them into a dismal morass.

Frequent Explosions in Phnom Penh Reported

BK2801020090 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Two students who recently fled recruitment by Vietnamese enemies and puppet authorities in Phnom Penh City to our liberated zone in Kompong Cham Province told our national resistance forces that bomb explosions were heard nearly every night in Phnom Penh City.

They said that on the night of 20 January, a bomb exploded in a communications office of the Vietnamese enemies and their puppets at Tuol Kouk. A few days earlier, a bomb exploded in the puppet Defense Ministry. But the Vietnamese enemies and puppet ringleaders have strictly banned the people from getting near these places and tried to conceal this news from the masses. But how can they conceal it? The explosion was quite loud and heard by everyone.

Upon hearing the bomb explosions in the heart of the city and inside the ministries and ministerial offices of the puppets, the masses were very glad and prayed that the puppet ringleaders—lackeys of the Vietnamese—would die soon, so that our country would be quickly liberated and all kinds of misery could be eliminated.

They reported that people from all walks of life in Phnom Penh said that if the resistance forces launched an attack in Phnom Penh, they would join in and lead the resistance forces to attack and smash all the traitorous ringleaders—Heng Samrin, Hun Sen, Chea Sim, and their gang.

'Puppet' Families Said Fleeing Battambang

BK2801044890 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] After our national resistance forces attacked Battambang Town, destroying various important strategic positions of the Vietnamese enemies and their puppet-lackeys in the heart of Battambang Town, the Vietnamese enemies and the puppet ringleaders were in great panic. They have imposed curfew nightly. Moreover, they have increased searches and closed accesses to Battambang Town. The people in the town did not trust that the Vietnamese lackeys and puppet authorities could provide security in Battambang Town. Thus, the people have kept sending their wives and children from Battambang Town to stay in Moung District and areas along Route 5.

The puppet ringleaders working in Battambang Town also sent their wives and children back to Phnom Penh.

Therefore, Battambang Town is in chaos day and night. The inhabitants, the puppet administrators at all levels, and the Vietnamese enemies—the experts, advisers, and military commanders who are supervising and controlling the puppets—are unhappy and worried, not knowing when the resistance forces will attack Battambang Town again.

Phnom Penh Citizens 'Furious' at Forcible Draft

BK2701020290 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 26 Jan 90

[Text] Lately, a number of people and youths have escaped from the forcible draft conducted by the Vietnamese enemies and their lackey puppets in Phnom Penh City to our liberated zone northwest of the city. Those defectors told our resistance forces that conscription is now active in Phnom Penh City. Civilians—male and female, young and old—workers, students, and low-ranking officials are being drafted, causing chaos and fear among the people in the city. Those who have enough money to bribe puppet leaders can be exempted temporarily, whereas the poor are hiding daily or moving around to escape the draft.

That being the case, the people in Phnom Penh are extremely furious with the Vietnamese enemies and puppet leaders Heng Samrin, Hun Sen, and Chea Sim. The people swear at them every day and pray for an early attack by the resistance forces on the city, so they will have the opportunity to jointly defeat the most corrupted and traitorous dictators—the Hanoi enemy authorities' cheapest lackeys—in order to alleviate the suffering that the Phnom Penh people have endured over the past 11 years.

Intensified Recruitment in Phnom Penh Reported

BK2801035590 (Clandestine) Voice of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2330 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Recently, a number of people and youths fled from Phnom Penh to our liberated zone northwestern of Phnom Penh to avoid being recruited by the Vietnamese enemies and their lackeys—the Heng Samrin-Hun Sen puppet clique. These people and youths told our resistance forces that authorities in Phnom Penh are currently intensifying recruitment of everyone—aging people, youths, students, workers, and even lower-level administrators. This is why the people of all strata in Phnom Penh are very worried. Only those who had enough money to bribe the puppet ringleaders could avoid being recruited. People in general who had no money to bribe anyone could not earn their living because they had to run around trying to avoid being recruited.

Thus, the people from all walks of life in Phnom Penh are very unhappy with the Vietnamese enemies and the Vietnamese lackeys—Heng Samrin, Hun Sen, and Chea Sim. The people have condemned them and prayed that our national resistance forces quickly come to attack Phnom Penh City so that they can join hands with our national resistance forces in attacking and smashing these arch oppressors, traitors, and corrupted elements who are out-and-out lackeys of the Vietnamese aggressors; thus eliminating all kinds of misery that the people in Phnom Penh have been experiencing for the past more than 11 years.

Commentary on Anticipated Free Elections

BK2901091390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Political commentary: "Free Elections in Cambodia"]

[Text] Free elections provide the opportunity for people of a nation to select a political regime with the aim of promoting the country's prosperity and safeguarding its survival. The elections are very important for a nation's existence. That being the case, free elections, which are expected to be organized in Cambodia, are of vital importance.

In the opinion of the Cambodian people and the international community, the elections are of great significance to the Cambodian nation as Cambodia's independence and national sovereignty would be restored if the elections are conducted in a genuinely free and democratic manner. But if there is poll-rigging in the elections deceptively maneuvered by the Vietnamese-installed communist Heng Samrin regime, Cambodia would remain under Vietnam's servitude forever.

The noncommunist Cambodian resistance forces fully endorse genuine, and free elections which would pave the way for Cambodia to regain its true independence. However, we absolutely object against any attempt to force Cambodians to vote against their will in manipulated elections. We believe that the people and international opinion in general want to see a fully independent Cambodia where the Cambodian problem and, especially, the people's suffering, can hopefully be brought to an end. It is time for the small, Vietnamese-installed, Heng Samrin-Hun Sen group to consider dissolving itself in order to allow Cambodians to enjoy their rights to self-determination in free elections.

Lately, Hun Sen of the Vietnamese-backed Heng Samrin regime has hinted that his administration would organize free elections in Cambodia. If so, the elections would not be free, correct, or serve the people's interest. They, instead, would serve Vietnam's strategy of strengthening its proxy regime which will consequently endanger Cambodia's survival.

If the Heng Samrin-Hun Sen group continues to serve Vietnam and abide by their orders by restraining the people from freely casting their votes, the Cambodian problem will never be settled. The Cambodian resistance will not give up its struggle to wrest back the country's independence. Being patriotic, we cannot stand idle allowing the Cambodian nation to be exterminated by the action of a small group of Cambodian quislings.

Laos

Party's Leading Roles in Revolution Discussed

BK3001041590 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0030 GMT 29 Jan 90

[From "Radio Talk" program in connection with the 35th Founding Anniversary of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party]

[Text] Now let us discuss our party's leading roles in the country's revolution. The Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP] is a political party of the working class and the fundamental factor determining every victory of the Lao Revolution. Discussing the party's leading roles, we must consider its role in connection with people's classes. According to Marxism-Leninism, the party is the vanguard of the working class. This is the political role as prescribed by the Marxist-Leninist theory. The party is the paramount organization of the working class and must maintain unity and close links with the masses.

In the new stage of the revolution after the party has gained the administrative power, the party is the political leader of the entire society and the leading core of the popular democratic system. In this sense, the LPRP is the vanguard of the Lao working class. The party is the political leader and the logistics body of the working class. Our LPRP has established the correct plans and policies in leading the masses in all activities and enhancing revolutionary consciousness as well as in applying Marxism-Leninism as the beacon for the Lao Revolution. The party has not only provided clear guidance but also is capable of organizing every movement. The LPRP has always organized and consolidated forces for [national] construction. During the national democratic revolutionary period, the LPRP was the only organ capable of correctly directing the revolution until the victory was accomplished.

Let us consider the leading role of our party in the country's revolution. Since our party was established, party members have set examples in production, combating, and fulfilling their assignments. They are deservedly called frontline combatants of the revolutionary movement. Through organizing and improving their quality and quantity, rank and file party members have become the leading cores in every movement. Meanwhile, the party maintains regular contact with people of all strata, closely associates with the masses, and consolidates all forces to form enormous strength. The LPRP has enhanced its vanguard role in the process of national defense and construction, simultaneously worked toward national solidarity, and mingled with the masses. The LPRP is born from the masses; it exists and expands among the masses. Therefore, the closer the party associates with the masses, the stronger it will be. In fact, it is a duty of the party to maintain unity with the masses. The party's aspiration, so to speak, is nothing else but to liberate the country, the people of all strata, and the laboring people. All of these can testify that the great victory we have scored can be attributed to our extensive and firm solidarity and the party's unity with the masses. Regardless of difficult and complicated circumstances, we can certainly succeed if we are united. We always say that solidarity begets success. However, solidarity in this context is solidarity along with the party's line and under its leadership, which includes members recruited from outstanding and active individuals from various circles. We must understand that the party screens and recruits outstanding and active people from various movements for its membership so that it can further expand its influence in every sphere of work. The party maintains that revolutionary tasks belong to every individual. For this reason, it gives priority to mobilizing and uniting multiethnic people nationwide to engage in socioeconomic development to bring prosperity and strength to the country and ceaselessly improve the people's living conditions.

Kaysone Phomvihan Receives Thai, French Envoys

BK2701060090 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0000 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, Council of Ministers Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan received a courtesy call from Nikhom Tantemsap, newly designated ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Thailand to the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], who recently presented credentials to the acting president of the republic. The guest and host chatted in a warm atmosphere, during which Kaysone Phomvihan expressed hope that Nikhom Tantemsap's performance of diplomatic work will contribute to promoting and expanding daily the fraternal friendship between the peoples of Laos and Thailand for the benefit of both sides, on the basis of the joint statement signed between the two governments on 25 November 1988.

On the afternoon of the same day, the Council of Ministers chairman also received a courtesy call from Marc Menguy, outgoing French ambassador to the LPDR, who left the chairman after completing his diplomatic mission in our country. On this occasion, Council of Ministers Chairman Kaysone Phomvihan expressed thanks and commendation to the ambassador for his achievements in contributing to improving, promoting, and expanding the Lao-French relations for the common interests of the peoples of Laos and France. The chairman of the Council of Ministers also wished Marc Menguy a safe trip home and success in his new tasks.

Philippines

Manglapus Welcomes Closure of U.S. Bases

HK3001072390 Hong Kong AFP in English 0710 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Manila, Jan 30 (AFP)—Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus said Tuesday [30 January] the Philippines welcomes U.S. moves to close down bases overseas but added that it would not affect negotiations on the future of U.S. bases in this country.

U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney on Monday [29 January] proposed closing 12 U.S. bases overseas as well as reducing activities at a U.S. naval communications facility at San Miguel in the Philippines as part of efforts at cutting spending.

The sprawling Subic Naval Base and Clark Air Base, both north of here, were not included in the proposals which must be approved by the U.S. Congress.

"From the American point of view, I understand this is an economic move. Apparently, these are also justified by positive developments in Eastern Europe," Mr. Manglapus told reporters.

"There is no direct relation (with the closure and) the existence of the bases. It is a fiscal matter," he said.

"We have always maintained that we have to be prepared in the future because technological developments might permit the U.S. to reduce some of its facilities abroad."

The Philippines is due to begin talks with Washington early this year on the fate of Clark and Subic, whose lease expires in 1991. Mr. Manglapus is to head the Philippine panel.

The negotiations have been threatened by Philippine complaints that Washington has not met requirements of an earlier agreement giving Manila 481 million dollars in annual compensation for hosting the bases.

Asked if the planned closures would pressure his panel in any negotiations, Mr. Manglapus said: "I don't see that these are of any real consequence to the issue at hand which is the continuation or not of these facilities."

Bosworth Visits Senate; Manglapus on Aid, Bases

HK3001092190 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Slantlines denote passage in English]

[Text] Former U.S. Ambassador to the Philippines Stephen Bosworth went to the Senate and spoke with Senate President Jovito Salonga. He is confident of President Aquino's ability to direct Philippines development. Cesar Chavez of DZRH Unit No. 9 has the details:

[Begin recording] In his visit to Senate President Jovito Salonga, former U.S. Ambassador Stephen Bosworth said the United States believes in civilian supremacy over the military. He said in an ambush interview that the Philippines has developed in the past 2 years and it is more evident that the Aquino administration is popular and democratic.

It will be recalled that Bosworth was U.S. ambassador to the Philippines before the fall of the Marcos regime. He is considered the architect of the Edsa [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] people's revolt. According to him, the military bases issue did not come up in the conversation with Senate President Salonga.

Meanwhile, Senator Neptali Gonzales told reporters this morning that the various pronouncements of U.S. officials who visited the country recently were meant to confuse the Aquino administration and maneuver it so that the government will agree to retain the military bases after 1991. The Struggle for Philippine Democrats' leader again urged the government to be firm against retention of the U.S. bases if there is no relevant compensation. [end recording]

In related news, Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus is not satisfied with the U.S. Government's noncompliance with its pledge of $200 million to the multilateral assistance program for the Philippines. Rey Arquiza of DZRH Unit No. 21 reports:

[Begin recording] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus today said he is not satisfied with the U.S. Government's deduction of $40 million from its pledge of $200 million to the multilateral aid assistance to the Philippines. He said in an ambush interview that it is the United States' problem to look for funds to comply with their commitment, which was made in Tokyo.

Manglapus also said he is not impressed with the plan to reduce U.S. troops in the Philippines because it will not affect the bases issue. Even if they reduce their forces here, the bases will still remain, he added. /The plan to reduce its forces here does not affect the reality that facilities are here./ This was Manglapus' statement. [end recording]

No Significant U.S. Forces Cuts Said in Asia

HK3001095790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0938 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Manila, Jan 30 (AFP)—Washington has told Manila that Soviet policy in Asia has not changed enough to warrant significant reductions of U.S. military forces in the region, Philippine President Corazon Aquino said Tuesday [30 January].

U.S. Defense Secretary Richard Cheney, who is scheduled to visit Manila next month, informed the Philippine government of Washington's plans in a letter to Philippine Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, Mrs. Aquino said in a statement.

This former U.S. colony hosts the largest U.S. overseas military bases at Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base, whose current lease runs out in September 1991.

Mrs. Aquino said Mr. Cheney told Mr. Ramos that following the political changes in Eastern Europe, Washington hoped that "similar political changes in Asia could prove equally promising, but such changes have not yet occurred."

"More relevantly, we have seen no changes in Soviet forces or other historical-political relationships that would allow significant reductions in the U.S. military forces in the Asia-Pacific region at this time," Mr. Cheney was quoted as saying.

A Soviet Embassy official in Manila, Alexander Losyukov, said two weeks ago that Moscow "has made a number of reductions in its military forces in Europe, Asia and the Pacific, including the activity of the Soviet Pacific fleet."

He did not elaborate.

Mr. Cheney on Monday [29 January] proposed closing 12 U.S. bases overseas as well as reducing activities at one of its smaller facilities in the Philippines, a naval communications facility in San Miguel north of here, as part of efforts to cut spending.

Philippine Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus welcomed the proposals, which must be approved by the U.S. Congress.

But he said the announcement has "no direct relation" to the scheduled exploratory talks on Clark and Subic, scheduled to start here in March or April.

"From the American point of view, I understand this is an economic move. Apparently, these are also justified by positive developments in Eastern Europe," Mr. Manglapus told reporters.

"We have always maintained that we have to be prepared in the future because technological developments might permit the U.S. to reduce some of its facilities abroad," he said.

Meanwhile, Stephen Bosworth, a former U.S. ambassador to the Philippines and current president of the U.S.-Japan Foundation, warned Tuesday that "major countries should not act precipitately or hastily" in pulling out military facilities.

"I would expect from the U.S. that adjustments of our military presence in the areas would take place very moderately and in very close consultation with our friends and allies in the (Asia-Pacific) region," he told reporters here.

"Whatever happens, one does not want to abruptly leave a vacuum in the region because such a vacuum could be perceived by both foreign and domestic investors as a potential source of instability," he told reporters here.

"There may be some gradual reduction of our presence in Europe and East Asia," he added.

Mr. Bosworth is visiting this country as part of a U.S.-Japan-Philippine business conference.

Mrs. Aquino said Mr. Cheney also told Mr. Ramos that "any concern arising in the Philippines from certain media reports about the defense budget of the U.S. is unwarranted."

Mr. Manglapus has claimed Washington was inclined to renege on its pledge to provide 481 million dollars annually in military and economic aid for Manila for 1990 and 1991 and supply the facilities with Philippine-made goods.

The agreement was signed in Washington by Mr. Manglapus and then U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in October 1988.

Meanwhile the head of the ruling Struggle for a Democratic Philippines (LDP), Senator Neptali Gonzales, asked Mrs. Aquino Tuesday to declare her position on the post-1991 future of Subic and Clark.

"I think we should already grapple with this problem," Mr. Gonzales told reporters. "We could no longer hide behind the options open policy."

Mrs. Aquino, who is formally not a member of the LDP, has steadfastly refused to make a commitment on the facilities, saying she wanted to keep her options open until the current lease runs out in September 1991.

Mr. Gonzales also urged Mrs. Aquino to call off the scheduled bases talks with Washington since he said the U.S. government had failed to comply with its aid commitments.

Laurel Urges Immediate Holding of Snap Elections

HK2901103090 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Report by Cesar Chavez of Mobile Unit No 9]

[Text] Vice President Salvador H. Laurel stressed the need to hold early snap elections for national leaders. This would include the presidency and vice presidency. He warned that the country's problems will worsen if the Aquino administration would delay the polls. According to him, the times call for a new mandate from the people. Laurel also said the people must decide on the issue of national leadership through their right of suffrage. The Nacionalista Party [NP] released Laurel's statement after a consultation with NP leaders and supporters.

In May of 1989, the opposition asked for a snap presidential election because the Aquino government had failed to resolve the country's crises. The holding of snap elections was also under discussion as two close aides of U.S. President George Bush visited the country and reports claim they met secretly with President Aquino regarding the matter.

Senator Says Election Idea Not U.S.-Inspired

HK2901095990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Slantlines denote passages in English]

[Text] Senator Ernesto Maceda stated that his proposal to hold the national elections in 1991 is neither Malacanang- nor U.S.-inspired. In an interview conducted by

DZRH, he said that it has been quite a while since he had spoke with the president. He also did not speak with U.S. Embassy officials before submitting the resolution.

[Begin Maceda recording] I would like to emphasize that it has been almost 2 weeks now since I spoke with the president. In fairness to her, she has nothing to do with this proposal. Second, I have not spoken with Mr Robert Gates or any U.S. Embassy representative. Those who suspect that this proposal was inspired by the U.S. Embassy, /let me also put that to rest./ Third, I am pleased /that it has inspired all of this public discussion and reaction./ This is precisely what I wanted to happen because /I wanted to provide the initial reason or the initial basis of discussion./ [end recording]

If Senator Maceda's resolution, which is supported by Senators Rene Saguisag, Ernesto Herrera, and Butz Aquino, is not approved, the national and local elections will still be held simultaneously in May 1992. Others proposed that the local elections be postponed for 2 years.

[Begin Maceda recording] /If the proposal that we postpone the local elections 1 year later to 1993, which is proposed by several members of Congress; and there is also in connection with that, privately being proposed,/ that instead of postponing the local polls, the national elections be delayed. [sentence as heard] /One ranking member of the House has been trying to get support/ to postpone the election for national officials for 2 years. /Thirdly, the other alternative is to [changes thought] if not to keep it in May or to postpone it, it has got to be advanced, one of the two./ I think it would be wrong to move up the local, because they were elected later than we were. /I thought that we would at least be given some credit or some appreciation that we are willing to cut our terms by 6 months./ [end recording]

Students Say Early Polls Part of U.S. Maneuver

HK2901115790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Report by Eloi Aquino of Mobile Unit No 12]

[Text] The issue regarding the early holding of snap presidential elections is one of the U.S. Government maneuvers in the attempt to maintain its bases in the country. At the same time student groups at the University of the Philippines [UP] said they will hold protests tomorrow in Manila, Baguio City, and Cebu City asking for the immediate dissolution of the U.S. military bases treaty.

In a news conference held at the Vinzon's Hall at UP, student leaders representing the University Student Council, Katipunan ng Mga Sanguniang Magaaral sa Pamantasan ng Pilipinas [UP Student Council Alliance], and the UP Students Voice, said the maneuver is meant to allow Congress to amend the Constitution by setting the date of the presidential elections in November 1991. According to the groups' spokesman, Amante Jimenez Jr, the Aquino administration will also amend the constitutional provision stating that foreign military installations cannot remain in the country. Jimenez stressed they will prevent these attempts by the U.S. and the Aquino government to retain the military bases and they will launch an extensive student protest that would paralyze several campuses. He said they will stage this to dramatize their demand to immediately dismantle the U.S. bases. He further stated that the protests will begin when the exploratory talks and negotiations for the bases' retention begin.

In the same forum, Jimenez criticized U.S. Representative James Kolbe's statement that the president is in favor of the military bases' retention. He said this is a direct and old tactic to pressure the present administration. Malacanang's avoidance of the issue does not favor the government's nationalist posture.

Hold Rally at U.S. Embassy

HK3001110790 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 1030 GMT 30 Jan 90

[From "GMA News" program]

[Text] About 1,000 students from the University of the Philippines have held a rally in front of the U.S. Embassy. There was some tension when police forces prohibited the students from proceeding direcvtly in front of the embassy. After the students delivered a notice of termination of the two U.S. bases, they assailed the U.S. Government for meddling in the Philippines.

Ramos Calls for Continued Support From U.S.

HK2901033490 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0100 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos is asking the United States not to let the ASEAN nations down, while Americans pursue efforts to help the newly democratic countries in Eastern Europe. In an international appeal made yesterday, Ramos said the democracies of the ASEAN countries remain fraught with danger and require the assistance of the United States. During an interview, he said the Philippines needs continued support and deserves the right recognition, because democracy in the country continues to be threatened.

Ramos made this declaration after learning about the proposal made by Republican leader Robert Dole that 5 percent of U.S. aid in Asia should be cut back and instead used to support democratic reforms in Eastern Europe.

Aquino 'Firmly in Control'; Calls for Investment

HK3001063190 Hong Kong AFP in English 0621 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Manila, Jan 30 (AFP)—President Corazon Aquino assured foreign businessmen here Tuesday [30

January] that she was "firmly in control of the government," even as she vowed to continue steps to encourage foreign investment.

Speaking before visiting U.S. and Japanese businessmen and economists, Mrs. Aquino said "to my detractors who would dare defy the rule of law merely to satisfy their lust for power, I say, I remain firmly in control of this government and intend to do so in accordance with our Constitution."

This was an apparent reference to rightist military renegades who launched a bloody coup attempt last December that claimed 119 lives, injured over 500 people and almost toppled Mrs. Aquino's government.

"The people's pulse is obvious. They want prosperity, a prosperity achieved in an atmosphere of peace. They want our democratic system to prevail," she added.

Mrs. Aquino also said that despite the coup attempt, investment applications in 1989 hit a record high of 3.3 billion dollars and assured the visiting delegations that her government was encouraging foreign investment further with a continuing review of investment policies.

"I am likewise considering the adoption of eight emergency measures, including net operating loss carryover, accelerated depreciation and reduction of tariff on capital equipment—to enhance and accelerate investments," she said. She did not mention the other measures.

"To give more teeth to these programs, government will need the support of all who are here today. You are the acknowledged business leaders of your respective countries. Your concerted assistance will greatly affect the success of our programs," she said to them.

She also called on the delegates to "inform your respective governments of the truth about this country. Your governments will no doubt heed your advice on the continuing need to base agreements on sincerity and trust and on keeping and honoring those that are made and exchanged."

Observers said she was apparently referring to Washington's failure to live up to an agreement forged in 1988, providing the Philippines with 481 million dollars in annual compensation for hosting U.S. bases in the north.

Adviser Admits Soldiers Still Planning Coup

HK3001093390 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] National Security Adviser Rafael Ileto has admitted that there are soldiers still planning to launch another uprising against the government. According to Ileto, although the military leadership knows that there are rebel soldiers in the Armed Forces, they are difficult to identify because many claim to support the administration, yet no one is certain that these soldiers are not rebels. However, Ileto said that if the military launches another uprising, it will not adversely affect the country like the 1 December coup attempt, because the people no longer want a coup d'etat and are willing to support the government. He added the Armed Forces are also prepared for any coup attempts. Here is Ileto :

[Begin recording in English] Some of those in the active service, we don't know, one way or the other they are involved, whether they're for or against. Some are neutral, and that you cannot totally eliminate. There will be still some of those in the active service who are involved. We cannot deny that. Some are actively involved. We cannot totally eliminate the fact that [word indistinct]. It is aiming at and getting evidences against them that is difficult. But I think little by little this will be resolved. [end recording]

U.S. Said To Have Planned for Deployment

HK2901035090 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 29 Jan 90 pp 1, 8

[Excerpt] The United States would have invaded the Philippines, like it did in Panama, had the military mutineers gained the upper hand during the aborted December coup, an international defense publication reported.

JANE'S DEFENCE WEEKLY, a commercial publication known for its authoritative military and defense intelligence reports, identified the unit which was to have been dispatched to the Philippines as the U.S. Army's 25th Infantry Division (Light).

The outfit, said JANE'S in its Jan 13 issue, "was preparing for partial deployment to the Philippines in December when events turned the quickly cancelled exercise into a standby alert."

It continued: "With an advance party ready at Clark Air Base, the 25th found itself facing the possibility of being called in to help an ally in real combat ...The call never came."

The weekly cited the U.S. military unit as an example of how fast the U.S. can deploy its forces to any trouble spot in the Pacific.

"Our mission is to deploy to the Pacific region for any contingency," the weekly quoted Brig. Gen. David Bramlett, assistant division commander for operations as saying. "We are in a nut-shell the Army's strategic reserve for the Pacific—the Army's reaction force. We have a requirement to be able to move rapidly—18 hours from notification."

Meanwhile, President Aquino warned military adventurists against making another attempt to seize power even as the PC [Philippine Constabulary] said it uncovered Saturday an alleged plot by rebel soldiers to attack Camp Crame.

"There will always be forces who will try to turn the country back to its dark past," Mrs Aquino said in her weekly broadcast program 'Magtanong sa Pangulo' ['Ask the President']. "But no attempt to bring down a restored democracy can ever succeed if the people will not support it."

The reported plot to attack PC headquarters was contained in an intelligence report to PC/INP chief Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano. A part of the report was shown to mediamen.

The report said the rebel soldiers would carry out commando raids at the main headquarters, cripple communication facilities, and free detained coup leaders from the stockade.

The report did not say how big the raiding forces would be and which particular military units would be involved. It only said that the rebels would come from Army headquarters in Fort Bonifacio.

The report said the rebels had originally set the attack between Friday midnight and Saturday midnight but was called off due to "miscommunication" between the commando leaders and their "contacts" inside the camp.

The report also said the plan was aborted after rebel countersigns which should have been distributed Wednesday last week inside Camp Crame did not arrive.

Military forces all over the country have been under full red alert since Jan 25 but Armed Forces spokesman Col. Juanito Rimando said the reason was President Aquino's birthday trip to Samar where she launched a P1-billion development program.

Last Wednesday, naval forces sealed the coastal areas off Metro Manila following reports that three boat-loads of rebel soldiers were coming in from the Visayas and Mindanao.

Security at Crame has also been extra tight since Wednesday. Yesterday visiting privileges at the stockade were cancelled triggering protests from detainees' visitors. [passage omitted]

Authorities Uncover Plot To Attack Camp Crame

HK2901075690 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 29 Jan 90 pp 1, 22

[Text] Military authorities disclosed yesterday that they have uncovered a plot by rebels belonging to the Reform the Armed Forces movement (RAM) and the Soldiers of the Filipino People (SFP) to attack Camp Crame last Friday and Saturday [26 and 27 January].

A sketchy report to Maj. Gen. Ramon Montano, PC-INP [Philippine Constabulary-Integrated National Police] chief, said renegade soldiers, remnants of those who mounted the Dec. 1 failed coup attempt, planned to attack Camp Crame in Quezon City, the headquarters of the Philippine Constabulary (PC).

The report did not say why the attack was called off, but military officials believed that it was due to the early detection by Constabulary intelligence officers.

Other developments:

1. Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos blamed the inaccessibility of some government officials for political upheavals and coup attempts in the country.

2. Government troopers captured a New People's Army (NPA) camp, killed three guerrillas, and recovered communications equipment and firearms in a series of offensives in various parts of the country over the weekend.

The PC report said the soldiers monitored as planning to stage the attack on Camp Crame would come from Fort Bonifacio in Mkaati, although Constabulary intelligence operatives could not identify to which branch of service the rebel soldiers belong.

Intelligence reports said the countersign supposedly to be distributed to rebel soldiers did not arrive at destined points and there was indecision among rebel soldiers on whether to carry out the attack.

Last Wednesday, the entire Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) went on full alert after receiving information of another attack by rebel forces.

The Philippine Navy in Manila was reported to have dispatched patrol boats to "sensitive areas" in Manila Bay and waterways in Cavite leading to Metro Manila.

Reports circulated in Camp Crame and Camp Aquinaldo that three boatloads of soldiers from the Visayas were out to start another rebellion.

Sealanes leading to Metro Manila were placed on a tight watch and some ships were strictly inspected for arms.

Even as reports of another coup attempt persist, the military intelligence community intensified its hunt for leaders of the December failed uprising.

At least four suspected coup leaders—former Navy Lt. Comdr. Jaime Lucas, Lt. Col. Billy Bibit, Capt. Pacifico Avenido, and Air Force Capt. Rogelio Ceradoy—are in the custody of the PC.

At Camp Crame, battle stations were placed under maximum alert even as Montano called the reported attack as "pure disinformation campaign by disgruntled military personnel in the Armed Forces."

Meanwhile, Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos said "the preponderance of communications problems in most sectors of our government helped the unabated disinformation campaign by rebel forces and wild rumors about coup."

Speaking at the Anvil awards of the Public Relations Society of the Philippines, Ramos said rumors and disinformation campaigns thrive because of inaccessibility of proper authorities to the media.

"It (government) must provide time and opportunity for people to reach and know government plans and programs," the defense chief said.

"Communicators, whether from the government or the private sector, must also bridge the gap between the people and the government to hasten efforts for a stable democracy," he added.

In another development, government troops launched oftensives against the NPA, killing two rebels and capturing a camp in Aurora. The military also recovered communications equipment and guns in a series of attacks and raids on the NPA camps from Jan. 22 to 24.

Military operations were conducted in Camarines Sur, Aurora, Zamboanga del Sur, and Lanao del Norte.

In Aurora, soldiers from the 70th Infantry Battalion captured an NPA camp in Barangay Bambo in Maria Aurora town. Government forces recovered in the raid a PRC 77 radio set, a portable typewriter, two Sony Betamax, an antenna base for ICOM radio, battery chargers, and subversive documents.

Aquino, De Villa on Arrest of Rebel General

HK2901095790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Report by Vic Pambuan of Mobile Unit No 13]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino welcomed the arrest of renegade soldier Brigadier General Edgardo Abenina, one of the leaders in the recent coup attempt which killed numerous civilians and soldiers. In a press statement, the president said this report was communicated to her by PSG [Presidential Security Group] Colonel Gazmin and later she immediately spoke with Armed Forces of the Philipines [AFP] Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa for the speedy arrest of the remaining rebel soldiers and officials who led the failed coup on 1 December. The president said this is not the first time she ordered the arrest of the rebel soldiers for she issued the directive even during the first days of the coup attempt. Brigadier General Edgardo Abenina's arrest shows [words indistinct] they do not want a coup. Mrs Aquino hopes that in time all the coup plotters will be arrested.

[Begin Aquino recording in English] Well, this morning it was Colonel Gazmin who relayed the information to me and later I spoke with General de Villa. So I am very happy and very pleased with this development. And I have not only said this today but even in the early days of the last coup attempt—to exert all effort to capture the renegade soldiers. [end recording]

AFP Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa said that Abenina's arrest mirrors the military's conviction and the citizens' extensive support against the coup leaders. He said that they expect to arrest other leaders of the rebel soldiers who are in hiding. De Villa added that Abenina's arrest weakened the alliance between the Reform the Armed Forces movement and the Marcos loyalists, whose aim is to overthrow the present government.

Arrest Weakens Rebel Propaganda

HK2901120790 Quezon City Sports Radio 738 in English 1100 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Slantlines indicate passages in Tagalog]

[Text] The military said the capture of Abenina would definitely reduce the propaganda machine of the coup plotters. Brigadier General Oscar Florendo, chief of AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippiness] civil relations service, said Abenina's capture would also adversely affect the coordination among rebel forces. Interviewed by Radyo ng Bayan, General Florendo also praised the civilians who tipped off Abenina. [as heard]

[Begin Florendo] /We know that General Abenina has been issuing many things. He wrote to Senator Estrada and has been releasing letters./ This will be reduced substantially with the arrest of General Abenina. Of course, /he claims he is the contact between General Zumel, Honasan, and Marcos loyalists./ Now if that is true and that is correct, the medium between Zumel and Honasan is lost. [end recording]

Election Official's Car Blown Up in Baguio City

HK2901053490 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0500 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] Unidentified men blew up the car of a Commission on Elections [Comelec] official in Baguio City last night. Patrolman Gabby Isican of the Baguio City Police said there were no casualties, but the car of regional director Philemon Asperin of Ilocos Region was seriously damaged. His 1984 Laser was parked at the top of Quarry Road when it was hit twice. Earlier reports said that Asperin had been receiving threats. He is assigned to San Fernando, La Union and was in Baguio City to help the Comelec's Cordillera office prepare for the plebiscite that is scheduled for tomorrow.

More Killed in Attacks by Muslims in Villages

OW2801125590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1112 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Cotobato City, Philippines, Jan. 28 KYODO—Four more people were killed, bringing the death toll to eight Sunday as a fierce firefight continued between government forces and Moslem rebels in Pikit, 55 kilometers east of here and about 945 kilometers southeast of Manila, local officials said.

Two people are missing and an estimated 155 residents are being held hostage in four villages by about 1,000 guerrillas from the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) and Moro Islamic Liberation Front, said Pikit Mayor Ramon Ong.

Constabulary provincial commander Lt. Col. Crecencio Villanueva said 140 houses were burned by the rebels in four villages before the rebels were routed from the area by the military Sunday.

Residents of Pikit said three of the latest civilian fatalities were caught in the cross fire amid fighting in the village of Valencia, while the fourth fatality, identified as Moises Nezaire, was beheaded by the rebels. These sources also said a female public school teacher was raped as the rebels took control of the village.

About two companies composed of both Constabulary and Army soldiers were dispatched Sunday to launch ground assaults on the rebels and to free the four villages still under rebel control.

Four people died and 15 others were wounded Saturday, according to local authorities, at the onset of what could be the biggest attack staged by Moslem separatist rebels in three years.

A cease-fire was negotiated late Saturday by Maguindanao Governor Norodin Matalam with an MNLF commander, but the cease-fire broke down after the rebels failed to comply with an agreement to release their hostages.

The rebels reportedly are demanding the surrender of a local commander of para-military force commander [as received] who allegedly led a group of armed men who massacred a Moslem family last year.

$25-Million U.S. Donation to PAP Signed

HK3001105790 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0800 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Report from Malacanang by Vic Pambuan, Mobile Unit 13]

[Text] The Philippines today received a $25-million contribution from the United States to the Philippine Aid Plan [PAP] following the signing of an aid agreement by PAP Chairman Roberto Villanueva and U.S. envoy Eliott Richardson, official representative of U.S. President George Bush. The signing of the $25-million aid, for the multilateral assistance initiative intended to fund the country's development programs, was held in Malacanang in front of media representatives. At the same time, Richardson and Felix Maramba, chairman of the Economic Development Foundation, a nongovernmental organization, signed a cooperative agreement for the establishment of a $5-million Philippine-U.S. private sector (?pay) investment facility under a special $150-million fund established by the United States for the PAP.

[Begin unidentified person recording in English] Ambassador Eliott Richardson is the special representative of the president of the United States, and he is visiting Manila in connection with the joint [word indistinct] for Philippine progress. He's here to sign the agreement with us. I will be signing in behalf of the Philippine Government. [end recording]

It is recalled that the PAP was formally launched on 3 July 1989 in a pledging session held in Tokyo, Japan, and was attended by 19 donor countries and other multilateral institutions. The program is expected to generate $3.5 billion in official development assistance to the Philippines for the years 1989 and 1990. It is also possible that the U.S. grant may reach $14 billion in the next 5 years. In view of this, the PAP chairman expressed the hope that foreign investors will be attracted to invest in the Philippines.

Thailand

6 Thais Abducted by Heng Samrin Soldiers

BK3001022290 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Jan 90 pp 1, 3

[Text] Aranyaprathet—Soldiers of the Heng Samrin regime abducted four Thai rangers and two Thai merchants from a border village yesterday.

They later demanded the release of four of their comrades arrested by Thai soldiers on Sunday [28 January] night in exchange for the hostages' freedom.

About 15 Heng Samrin troops crossed Khlong Phrom Hoat, a strategic canal on the Thai-Cambodian border, into Ban Khok Sabaeng, about 15 km southeast of here about 2:30 p.m. yesterday.

The intruders forced four Thai rangers and two Thai merchants at gunpoint to follow them into Cambodia.

The abducted rangers were identified as Master-Sergeants Phirun Maliwan and Chaloem Phimsukho, and Privates Suraphon sae Chua and Sut Malila. All of them belong to the 11th Ranger Regiment attached to the Burapha (Eastern) Task Force.

The merchants were Thongphun Ounprakan and Samruai Phimsoi of Ban Khok Sabaeng.

The abductors later met Thai soldiers at the strategic canal and demanded that four Heng Samrin soldiers arrested on Sunday night by a Thai border patrol unit be freed in exchange for the release of the six Thai hostages.

The captive Cambodian soldiers were identified as Privates Nuai Hanmout, Tem Suwan, Lon Hua and Chamo Moud.

The four, who were seized while crossing the border into Ban Sano Noi, also had a large quantity of weapons with them.

The weapons contained in four rice sacks included four M16 and 16 AK47 assault rifles, 64 rounds of AK47 ammunition, six rounds of M16 ammunition and nine magazines.

Thai authorities believed that the Cambodians planned to sell the weapons to Thai traders who would sell them to ethnic minority groups along the northern Thai border.

The Cambodians were being held for interrogation at the Burapha Task Force headquarters.

Thai and Heng Samrin soldiers held neigotiations at Khlong Luk Bridge linking Aranyaprathet with Poipet yesterday, but no agreement had been reached.

Forestry Permit for Chatchai Adviser Revoked

BK3001085390 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Agriculture and Cooperatives Minister Major General Sanan Khachonprasat told reporters at Government House before attending a cabinet meeting this morning that the Agriculture and Cooperatives Ministry has issued an order revoking a lease on land in the Khwae Rabom-Siyat national forest reserve granted to the Suan Kitti Reforestation Company [owned by Senator Kitti Damnoenchanwanit, an adviser to Prime Minister Chatchai Chunahawan] on grounds that the company has encroached upon reserve land outside the licensed area. The ministry will quickly cooperate with other agencies involved in taking further legal action against the company. [passage omitted]

Chatchai Waiting To Speak on Forest Issue

BK3001023590 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 30 Jan 90 p 1

[Text] Senator Kitti Damoenchanwanit, managing director of a company accused of extensive forest encroachment in Chacheongsao province has reportedly resigned from his post as a prime ministerial adviser, according to Prime Minister [PM] Chatchai Chunhawan.

The premier said he had heard of the resignation only yesterday, but had not personally seen Kitti's resignation letter.

Asked what the Government would do about the alleged enroachment, Gen [General] Chatchai said he had not yet received detailed reports on the issue and did not yet know the truth.

"I will speak about it when I find out all the facts," he said.

Gen Chatchai said that as PM he must take responsibility and all concerned ministries and the whole Cabinet must also take responsibility.

Asked whether the alleged enroachment was considered serious, Gen Chatchai said he did not know.

"Logging creates controversy, reafforestation also creates controversy. There are always controversies," said Gen Chatchai.

"There shouldn't be any political problems. Forest enroachment is illegal and if it is found (the company) has breached the law, then legal action will be taken accordingly. Other considerations should not be involved."

The PM said he was not thinking about a Cabinet reshuffle as had been rumoured.

"The Forestry Department director-general has to report to the Agriculture Minister, who will then report to me before I can speak about what actions should be taken because forests are a very important issue," he said.

Gen Chatchai said Agriculture Minister Sanan Khachonprasat's visit to his home on Sunday night was mainly for a briefing on what was happening.

"He must find out the truth as one cannot speak without evidence," the PM said.

He said he had asked Maj-Gen Sanan to submit a report as soon as possible because the longer it took, the more people would speak about the issue.

"We have to clarify the matter for the public."

Vietnam

Moscow To Reduce Military Assistance to SRV

BK3001012090 Bangkok THE NATION in English 30 Jan 90 pp 1, 2

[Text] The Soviet Union recently decided to cut back military assistance to Vietnam by about one-third starting next year, following its pullout of offensive forces from Cam Ranh Bay, Hong Kong-based diplomatic sources said yesterday [29 January].

The sources said a Soviet deputy defence minister informed the Vietnamese of the cutback during a visit to Vietnam on November 27. The Vietnamese were reportedly forced to sign a document acknowledging the change, which would include relocation of Soviet refuelling facilities from Cam Ranh Bay on Vietnam's eastern shore.

These two changes were mentioned by China's paramount leader Deng Xiaoping during a Jan 1 in-house meeting of senior Chinese leaders as one of the "favourable conditions" for Beijing to improve its relationship with Hanoi.

Deng's assessment of the situation was that the sweeping political changes in the Soviet bloc were affecting aid to Vietnam, increasing pressure on Hanoi to mend its rift with China and the West, according to the diplomatic sources, who had access to Deng's speech.

In the same speech Deng called for closer cooperation among Asia's orthodox communist nations—China, Vietnam and North Korea—to "safeguard the flag of socialism."

Deng also predicted that if Vietnam's reformist party secretary general Nguyen Van Linh voluntarily stepped down at this year's communist party congress, the orthodox party would further alienate itself ideologically from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his radical policy changes.

Another favourable condition cited by Deng was the tendency of the Vietnamese party to follow the Chinese pattern of promoting economic reforms while steadfastly sticking to socialist principles in the political sphere.

Deng said the Chinese government should take several steps towards patching up the Sino-Vietnamese relationship. The paramount Chinese leader was quoted as saying Beijing could reduce tension and avoid clashes with the Vietnamese on their common frontier and possibly on such disputed areas as the Spratley archipelago.

Deng has resigned from all his official posts in the communist party but many believe he still has the final say on major policy matters.

Deng also specifically mentioned the Cambodian conflict as an area where "indirect" conflict between the two countries has been serious and could be reduced.

He proposed an increase in the number of exchanges between Chinese and Vietnamese leaders. This particular step was reported by the Hong Kong-based SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST to have been announced on the 40th anniversary of the establishment of Sino-Vietnamese diplomatic relations on Jan 18.

During a meeting to mark the occasion, China's Foreign Minister Qian Qichen told Vietnamese diplomats that China hoped to revive its friendship with Vietnam soon, according to the Hong Kong-based newspaper, which first broke the story of Deng's speech.

At the same time, Beijing decided to despatch a top Chinese leader, probably party secretary general Jiang Zemin, to Pyongyang, North Korea, to further cement ties with Kim Il-Song's regime.

In his speech on Jan 1, Deng said Gorbachev's dramatic policy shifts have led to stronger ties between Beijing and Pyongyang, both of which are concerned that the change sweeping communist nations in Europe could spread to Asia.

The most striking statement of Deng's speech to many analysts was his prediction of Gorbachev's downfall as a result of conflict within the Soviet Union.

Deng predicted the resurgence of Kremlin conservatives in Gorbachev's place.

The political implications of the changes in the Soviet camp on the Cambodian conflict remain to be seen, though many foreign policy analysts in Bangkok believe the upheavals in Eastern Europe and Beijing's new attitude towards Hanoi will help speed up the peace process.

One policy analyst pointed out that rather than ideology, Hanoi is likely to be more concerned with Vietnam's deteriorating economy, now on the verge of bankruptcy.

Vietnam has been economically isolated from the West primarily because of its part in the Cambodian conflict.

The "convergence of ideological interests" should provide an opportunity for Hanoi and Beijing to dispel their mutual suspicions, the analyst predicted.

As a result, Hanoi would have another incentive to accept a power-sharing agreement in Cambodia in which the Khmer Rouge—which is supported by China—would participate, he said.

Essay Views Future of SRV-PRC Friendship

OW3001100790 Hanoi International Service in Mandarin 1200 GMT 27 Jan 90

[Unattributed essay: "A Look Into the Future of Friendship Between Vietnam and China at a Time When the Old Year Is Seen Off and the New Spring Is Ushered In"—from "For the Friendship Between Vietnam and China" program]

[Text] Listener friends, 1990 is the first year of the 1990s. UNESCO will sponsor activities in 1990 to commemorate the 100 birth anniversary of President Ho Chi Minh, an outstanding figure of the era. Speaking of Chairman Ho, every Vietnamese and Chinese cannot help but associate this revered gentleman with two lines in a poem he wrote that embodies his great thinking: Profound is the friendship between Vietnam and China, who are both comrades and brothers. These words not only express the traditional friendship between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples and the close ties between the revolutionary causes of the two countries, but they also convince the people of the next generation in Vietnam and China that they should manifest lofty and beautiful thinking and feelings to be forever friendly to each other.

I remember that when I got an opportunity to visit China 10 years ago, I saw painted on the wall of a civilian house in a Chinese town these two lines in President Ho Chi Minh's poem: Profound is the friendship between Vietnam and China, who are both comrades and brothers. This illustrates the feelings Vietnam and China had for each other during the period when the two countries were on friendly terms. What is the situation in recent years then?

During Vietnamese national day in 1986, the Vietnamese fighters in (Mana) area of (Weichuan) County in Ha Tuyen Province, or the Laoshan area as the Chinese call it, received a letter tossed to them by the Chinese fighters in the position opposite theirs. Inscribed on the envelope were these words: To Vietnamese comrades-in-arms. One passage in the letter read: We yearn for and seek peace. We do not wish to continue the fighting, because we used to be both comrades and brothers. Now it is even more desirable for us to be friendly to each other. Do you think so, our Vietnamese brothers?

A similar incident occurred in the same area two years ago in 1988 when the Vietnamese fighters received a letter tossed from the other side of their entrenchment. The letter contained only a few lines. It read in full as follows: Dear Vietnamese friends, how are you? We wish you a happy new year. We share an identical goal with you. We want peace, not war. Long live the friendship between China and Vietnam. We wish you happiness. From Chinese soldiers.

Because it is in accord with the desire, wish, and personal interests of the people, President Ho Chi Minh's great thinking and the friendship between Vietnam and China fostered by this revered gentleman have taken deep root in the hearts of the Chinese people and soldiers. Friendship between Vietnam and China is the wish of the peoples and soldiers of the two countries. It represents their permanent interests. What the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples want is peace and not war. We want profound feelings, feelings of friendship that exist between comrades and brothers. What we don't want is a continuation of hostility that has existed to this date.

Many deep changes took place in the world in 1989. Many gratifying changes also occurred in the relations between Vietnam and China. Gunshots basically died out along the border between Vietnam and China. The frontier peoples on both sides started making contact early last year by visiting relatives and exchanging daily necessities. An atmosphere of relaxation ensued and people are excited about it.

(Wei Jiabo), director of the General Office of China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, said: The seven counties in Guangxi that border Vietnam have great potential. Exchanges between the two sides are beneficial to the people of Guangxi in terms of production and daily life. He hopes the border between Vietnam and China will become a border of goodwill and good neighborliness to make it possible for Guangxi to meet its potential.

But why, to this date, has it not become a border of goodwill, peace, and friendship as desired by the peoples of the two countries? It has been claimed for many years that, as long as Vietnam announces its decision to completely withdraw its troops from Cambodia and begins to carry out this troop withdrawal, China will reopen normalization talks. The last unit of Vietnamese volunteers completely pulled out and returned home on 26 September of last year. The talks, however, have not yet reopened.

Nevertheless, achievements in 1989 have filled our hearts with even greater confidence and hope than before as we enter the new year of 1990. The hope is that, in defiance of all obstacles, friendship between the Vietnamese and Chinese peoples will be restored in accordance with their profound wish.

Statement Issued on Relations With USSR

BK2901131990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Statement by Dang Huu, head of the State Science and Technology Commission and president of the Vietnam-Soviet Friendship Association, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Vietnam-Soviet diplomatic relations; date not given—recorded]

[Text] Diplomatic relations between the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics were officially set up on 30 January 1950 at a time when our people's sacred anti-French colonialist war of resistance reached a decisive stage. This official establishment of diplomatic relations marked an important event in the development of friendship between the two countries. These friendly relations and militant solidarity stem from long-standing historic traditions, Lenin's immortal viewpoints, and the victory of the great October Revolution.

The first Vietnamese to promote the movement for friendship with the Soviet people was the great President Ho Chi Minh, an outstanding son of the Vietnamese people and a great friend of the Soviet people.

This year is significant because it marks the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and the Soviet Union, the 40th founding anniversary of the Vietnam-Soviet Friendship Association, great Uncle Ho's birth centenary, the 45th national day, and the party's 60th founding anniversary.

Our people's revolutionary cause is closely linked with Uncle Ho's undertaking and life, the party's leadership, and the friendship and cooperation with the Soviet people. During the dark years under the French colonialists' yoke of domination, the terms October Revolution, Lenin, and Soviet administration meant something sacred. They served as guidelines for the Vietnamese people and filled them with confidence and hope in their struggle to regain independence and freedom for the fatherland.

Great Uncle Ho's concept of combining socialism with national liberation has laid the groundwork for the friendship between the two peoples. The Soviet people have been close friends of the Vietnamese people for a long time, and the Soviet empire has become part of the Vietnamese people's cherished dreams. Even when

Vietnam was dominated by French colonialists, the Vietnamese people initiated a movement under the motto, "Hands off the Soviet Union" to voice support for the newly established Soviet administration.

The success of the August Revolution is an inseparable part of the Soviet people and armed forces' great military victory over the German fascist clique and the Japanese militaristic ring. Since then the militant solidarity between the two peoples has constantly been consolidated. There have been cases of Vietnamese combatants fighting shoulder to shoulder with the Soviet people and sacrificing themselves in the anti-German fascist struggle.

Over the past 40 years, the friendship, cooperation, and militant solidarity between the two peoples have constantly been consolidated and developed. The wholehearted, great assistance based on the spirit of proletarian internationalism that the Soviet Union has reserved for the Vietnamese people was of utmost importance during the two wars of resistance against the French colonialists and the U.S. imperialists for national liberation. The 1954 Dien Bien Phu Victory and the 1975 Spring Victory must be credited to this great, valuable assistance.

The assistance the Soviet Union has given to the socialist construction in our country is significant. The Soviet Union has helped us with the construction of the preliminary material and technical bases of socialism. These include many power plants, coal mines, oil exploitation projects, chemical facilities, machinery plants, construction projects, mineral exploration projects, and others. These material and technical bases have had a good impact, have generated a substantial driving force for production, and have greatly contributed to resolving socioeconomic issues facing our country.

Besides economic aid, the Soviet Union has cooperated and helped us with comprehensive development plans in culture, education, public health care, science, technology, and other fields. The Soviet Union has helped us build and develop our scientific and technological potentials, which have a decisive role in our national development. The Soviet Union has provided college-level education to more than 20,000 Vietnamese cadres. Besides, more than 4,000 of our 6,000 candidate doctors and most of our doctors holding degrees in various scientific and technical fields have also received Soviet training. The Soviet Union has helped us build many scientific bases of key importance, such as the Vietnam Institute of Science and the Hanoi Polytechnic College.

It can be said that the Soviet Union has helped us build an entire network of preliminary material and technical bases of socialism and a comprehensive scientific development program. Soviet cooperation and great assistance have covered all aspects of our national economy. From the urban areas to the countryside and from the mountain regions to offshore islands, there exist vivid manifestations of the valuable solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between the Vietnamese and Soviet peoples.

The signing of the 1978 treaty on solidarity, friendship, and all-round cooperation between the Soviet Union and Vietnam marks a new development stage in their bilateral relations. The volume of Soviet aid to Vietnam has increased considerably since the signing of the treaty. The quality and efficiency of the cooperation program have been further improved.

Vietnam itself is making great efforts to assume an increasingly active role in labor distribution between the socialist countries on the basis of multilateral cooperation within the framework of the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance, and to contribute to consolidating the common potentials of the community.

The Soviet people are accelerating the speed of restructurization in accordance with the spirit of the 27th party congress and the party's 19th plenum. Likewise, the Vietnamese people are implementing renovation in accordance with the sixth party congress. Multifaceted achievements and progress have been recorded. New issues have also been raised. Difficult problems have arisen from new developments worldwide. Nevertheless, the militant solidarity, friendship, and cooperation between the two parties and peoples are indestructible and continue to be constantly consolidated and developed for the sake of peace and socialism.

The Vietnamese people show keen interest in and support of the Soviet people's restructurization efforts aimed at fully developing the superiority of socialism and accelerating socioeconomic development on the basis of scientific and technical progress and socialist democratization.

May the Soviet people's restructurization undertaking be crowned with great achievements!

May the friendship and solidarity between the two peoples be constantly consolidated and developed!

Le Phuoc Tho on Mekong Delta, Conclusion

BK2601055590 Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 30 Nov 89 pp 2, 4

["Conclusion" of report by CPV Central Committee Secretary Le Phuoc Tho entitled: "Continue To Solve the Problems of Land and Rice Fields and Agricultural Cooperativization in the Mekong River Delta" at "recent" conference to review land problems in nine Mekong River Delta provinces—date, place not given. For Le Phuoc Tho on Mekong Delta, Part 1, see DAILY REPORT 8 Jan 1990.]

[Text] We should strengthen the relationship between the party and state and the peasants, and firmly maintain discipline and law.

Below are the guidelines for settling each case of land dispute.

Regarding the pieces of land that have been obtained as a result of eliminating exploitation by feudalists and rich farmers and bourgeois, confiscated from former puppet troops and tyrants of the former administration as a result of "expropriation", or offered to the revolution through various stages, if they have been distributed to peasants they will not be returned.

If the peasants' children live in difficulty because they do not have land nor rice fields for production, their cases will be settled like those of other peasants, depending on the land assets in localities.

Cases of land dispute within families and dispute over residential land, and illegally transferred, sold, and mortgaged land do not fall under cases of land reform according to Directive Nos 57, 19, and 100. As a result, families and households must settle their disputes among themselves with the assistance and guidance of the local administration and mass organizations. If need be, the local administration will settle the disputes as civil cases based on laws on land.

Land disputes among peasants' households that were previously settled in accordance with Directive No 57 should be solved depending on each specific type of household:

Those households that used to have more than the average required area of land and rice field, and now have more members and ability to produce goods, will get more land depending on the land assets available. In such cases, consideration must be given to each household, and the settlement should not be too rigid.

With respect to those households that already had their land and rice field allocations adjusted, but now have grown larger with more members and have limited production capability, or own rice fields, gardens, trade and other business facilities, if after such irrationalities as "confused or egalitarian modes of land reform" have been corrected for them and if the pieces of land and rice field currently available to them can assure them sufficient means of living, these households will be motivated and persuaded not to demand more land.

If those households previously engaged in commercial activities or other trades that already had their land and rice field allocations adjusted and are not less efficient in production, they must be persuaded to return their pieces of land and rice field for reallocation to other households in need of more land.

It is necessary to ensure that those households tilling their rice fields have enough rice fields to work on for a living. We should correctly implement the policy on land and rice fields toward the families of war invalids, fallen heroes, and meritorious revolutionaries. There are about 10 percent of households in rural areas that now have difficulties in their everyday life and some people who are living from hand to mouth through hired labor. All party committees, the administration at all levels, and mass organizations must plan and provide guidance for them to carry out production and must mobilize mutual aid among peasants. Nevertheless, they must mainly assist these households in carrying out production so as to gradually reduce the number of these households and people. During the drive to solve the problems of land and rice fields, some people have become "empty handed" (having no rice field nor garden and no trade); we must strive to create jobs for these people and give them land and rice fields.

We should continue to control and severely deal with those cadres and party members, especially managing cadres of production collectives and cooperatives, who are still involved in misappropriating and misusing land and rice fields. Regarding pieces of land of state farms, forests, and state agencies, and self-reclaimed land, if they are still not fully used, they should also be handed over to local authorities for distribution to peasants who do not have enough land or have no land at all.

4. To satisfactorily implement the guidelines mentioned above, we must uniformly employ the integrated strength of the three foremost methods of persuasion—education, economics, and administration.

Disputes over land and ricefields must be settled at grassroots levels (villages, hamlets, cooperatives) among peasants in an open, democratic, and perseveringly educational and persuasive manner.

We must remunerate labor given on land and ricefields on the basis of agreement with peasants under several forms and to flexible levels. This is not the purchase and sale of land and ricefields, but it is actually labor remuneration for manpower given to create more profits and benefits at harvest. (Article 3 of law on land) As a result, the local administration and mass organizations should provide guidance for guaranteeing the interests and conditions for achieving these goals for both sides.

Administrative action must be taken in combination with efforts to motivate the masses to struggle against those who have been educated and persuaded several times to solve the problems of land and ricefields, when their allocations have been adjusted equal to or above the locally prescribed average, but still stubbornly demand the return of all their former parcels of land. Party committee echelons must exercise close and timely leadership to prevent scuffles and, at the same time, remain vigilant against villains or enemies who might take advantage of the situation to instigate disturbances.

Certificates of right to use land and ricefields must be issued to those households whose land and ricefield problems have been solved.

The land and ricefield management system, especially at the grassroots level, must be consolidated in order to gradually make it a pattern, statute and law.

There have been, in fact, peasants who have established their own household trades, or have no agricultural production ability. If they want to shift to other business sectors, they may be authorized to transfer or cede the right to use land and ricefields to other capable households on the principle of using it correctly for agricultural production, agreeing not to transfer it for nonagricultural use or not to hire other people to work on the land and in the ricefields. Such an action must be certified by the state land and ricefield management agencies. All transfers, sales, and mortgages conflicting with the law on land are forbidden.

5. This recent problem of land and ricefield use is a matter beyond everyone's expectations, which has many economic, historical, social, and policy causes. As a result, it cannot be solved within a short period of time but will require a long process. Localities and grassroots installations are therefore required on the one hand to quickly settle the remaining cases of dispute and on the other to institute practical socioeconomic development plans to vigorously increase production, create more steady jobs, and improve the livelihood of peasants.

Regarding Agricultural Cooperativization

1. Through the process of establishing new production relations in agriculture, we have linked cooperativization to the gradual settlement of land and ricefield problems (directive Nos 57, 19, 100), reorganized production, developed various sectors and jobs, expanded new economic zones, adjusted the distribution of population, and created more jobs. The Mekong River Delta provinces have thus far organized 444 cooperatives and 28,802 production collectives.

Although there are still many shortcomings and weaknesses, cooperativization has had some effect on the training of peasants in collective work, the building of material and technical bases, the introduction of technical innovations into production, and the formation of a contingent of cadres who have begun to acquire some economic management ability.

We must clearly point out the fact that achievements have been recorded in agricultural cooperativization nationwide, especially in the north, thereby making positive contributions to the anti-U.S. struggle for national salvation. However, agricultural cooperativization has yet to yield high socioeconomic results in Nam Bo. At present, in view of the renovation of the managerial mechanism, with the switch from the bureaucratic subsidy-based administrative mechanism to the mechanism of profit-and-loss accounting, to commodity production, and to the establishment of the household as an autonomous production unit, and faced with upheavals in land ownership, the cooperatives and production collectives have come to a standstill, showing confusion in changing the contents of their activities and shifting to new work methods. Because of the indiscriminate, coercive cooperativization in the past and the lack of a contingent of competent cadres, which resulted in formalism in organization, a significant number of these establishments have essentially adopted the individual mode of production.

In the face of this state of affairs, the leadership at various levels, especially at the grassroots level, have shown anxiety and differences in their evaluation of the situation and in working out a solution to the problem in the days ahead. The two main views are:

First, under the conditions of the current production force, some hold that the household is the most efficient production unit. Therefore, peasant households should be allowed to freely practice the individual mode of production for a definite period of time and cooperativization should not be carried out at this juncture.

Second, cooperativization is essential because there is a need for it now. However, the localities have shown a great deal of confusion in defining the new forms and contents of cooperativization in accordance with the new managerial mechanism in order to organize production in a way that suits the characteristics of the Mekong River Delta.

Because of these tendencies, some localities have at times shown laxity in leadership and guidance while others have taken the initiative in conducting studies and changing the direction of the contents and operational methods of the existing forms of production organizations. At the same time, new forms have been sought and tried according to the spirit of Resolution 10 of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and the Resolution of the party Central Committee's Sixth Plenum. Some new models have begun to appear, but we should continue to study and adjust them, and we should avoid subjectivism because this problem is not simple.

2. How should we make an objective assessment and adopt suitable policies for the future? This is a big and complex question, both in theory and practice. It needs further study and takes time. Based on the study of the situation in a number of localities and on the opinions you expressed at this conference, I would like to raise the following key issues:

a. First of all, we should clearly define the basic objectives of agricultural cooperativization as developing commodity production; continuously improving the material and spiritual life of the peasantry; and intensifying the construction of the material and technical bases of agriculture and the building of the new countryside, thereby making the peasants more and more attached to the collective economy and the cooperative system in order to advance to socialism.

The primary requirement is that cooperativization must be linked with continuing efforts to resolve the land problem, organize production, develop various branches and professions, create jobs, and resolve social problems in the rural areas.

b. On the other hand, we should firmly grasp the following ideological viewpoints:

First, taking peasants to socialism through the path of cooperativization is an objective necessity. This is an orientation that has the nature of a law in the revolutionary line followed by our party throughout the period of transition to socialism. In organizing agricultural cooperativization, we must ensure adherence to the principle of democracy, the people's voluntariness, and the party's leadership. Our party's cause of renovation is aimed at building socialism in a better way, not renouncing the path of agricultural cooperativization.

One of the issues that we have unanimously agreed upon at this conference is that there has been a need for cooperativization in the Nam Bo rural areas for the following reasons:

—As a result of many years of construction, the Mekong River Delta provinces now possess a certain number of material and technical bases, especially irrigation networks, which cannot be effectively put in use unless through cooperativization. Besides, cooperativization is needed in a number of localities in order to prevent the deterioration of a number of irrigation networks, especially rice field irrigation networks.

—In the course of commodity production and competition, peasants have realized that cooperativization has created conditions for them to profit from the application of technological innovations, to purchase machinery, to build material and technical bases, to promote product marketing, and to guarantee high results for production and business operations, something that cannot be achieved or that only yields low results through the personal efforts of each individual household.

—Only through cooperativization can there be additional conditions for resolving social problems in the rural areas, particularly for developing public utility projects and infrastructures.

Second, it is necessary to achieve cooperativization under varied forms, on different scales, and through various development stages, taking one step at a time and beginning with the bottom line before progressing to a higher level. The same rule must be applied to single- and multi-product manufacture, technical service provision, building of material and technical bases, development of infrastructures, goods circulation, and broadening of cooperation between the various economic sectors.

Servile imitation, oversimplification, impatience, haste, imposition, and lax control are all at variance with the party's standpoints.

As far as this issue is concerned, one should thoroughly understand the characteristics of the new type of cooperativization defined by Resolution 10 of the party Central Committee Political Bureau and the Resolution of the party Central Committee's Sixth Plenum. First of all, peasant households are granted the right to use land for long periods of time and defined as production units enjoying autonomy in production and business operations and taking responsibility for both profits and losses. The primary objective of their cooperativization is to promote the household economy and through this cooperativization to help the collective acquire its property, which takes the form of material and technical bases and other joint business operations. It is through these very economic establishments that the cooperativization economy takes form from low to high levels and carries out its managerial function.

With this kind of cooperativization, when it comes to project formulation, planning, application of technological innovations, and other areas in which the cooperativization economy and the household economy are closely related, the two economies are bound together by work contracts and orientations and management procedures as well.

Of course, this path of development can in no way free itself from the impact of the macro-management policy, which plays an extremely important role in the national economy in general and the collective economy in particular. It is necessary for the state economy to take the initiative in creating conditions for the development of the collective economy and the household economy.

Thus, we should not identify cooperativization with collectivization. As a result, as far as efforts to organize cooperativization are concerned, steps must be taken to shift to new orientations and renovate the forms, contents, and operational procedures of cooperatives.

Third, we must create proper economic, political, and social premises for the cooperativization process. We must build material and technical bases and public welfare facilities, develop the contingent of managers, set up organizations for labor cooperation, and build the party, the administration, and the mass organizations. We should avoid the laissez-faire approach and letting the peasants develop production organizations in a spontaneous manner.

Fourth, we must adopt the viewpoint that past achievements and experience gained in the recent cooperativization process must be used so that we may move forward more successfully and efficiently, avoiding the tendency to rebuild from scratch and to deny all past gains.

These viewpoints form a whole and serve as the guiding concept at this juncture. Cooperativization, a requirement of both the peasants and the party, must be organized to create proper conditions for our advance to socialism, to strengthen the peasants' attachment to the party, and to consolidate the worker-peasant alliance.

3. Specific problems in consolidating and selecting forms of cooperation viewed

Based on the current status of cooperatives and production collectives in provinces, forms of cooperation can be divided into three different types and the following orientations for renovating each type can be proposed:

The first type consists of cooperatives and production collectives which have built some material and technical bases during the time of cooperation, have begun to develop their trades and general business, and have owned self-procured capital and machinery to perform production and business operations and other service and technical activities. Generally speaking, this type has established its collective economy and should consolidate and shift its operations in the near future with the following contents:

1) Reexamine the production guidelines to suit the natural, economic, and market conditions, and to ensure high efficiency; and rationally distribute the tasks of production, business, and service to the families of cooperative members as independent collective economic units and, on this basis, invest them with the right to use land and ricefields steadily and for a long term.

2) Rearrange the current material and technical bases to suit the new production conditions and management mechanism so that they can be used effectively and, at the same time, to build more bases and get additional equipment as required to develop the collective and family economies.

3) Renovate the scope of management, especially the planning and contract systems.

— Regarding planning, cooperatives and production collectives must keep in touch with the economically informed market, comprehend the guidelines and policies of the party and state, and grasp the scientific and technical progresses in agricultural development. On this basis, cooperatives and production collectives will establish their overall production and business plans.

— Invest households with the right to use land and ricefields and offer contracts to collectives for using the material and technical facilities (water conservancy machinery) and the various trades and jobs under many suitable forms on the principle of ensuring the recovery of capital to build new fixed assets for the collectives. The collectives must make operating profits and fulfill economic contracts with households and other economic organizations.

4) Additional assets must be created to conduct business in the established mode of production, using self-procured capital in addition to the assets of cooperative members which can be mobilized in the forms of loans or shareholdings together with credits and other assets secured through integration with other economic sectors.

5) Renovate functions and tasks and streamline the management machinery for compactness and effectiveness.

The functions and tasks of the management machinery should be determined to:

— Guide households in establishing production plans and establish general production and business plans of cooperatives.

— The management committees should guide or administer such important tasks as water conservancy, seeds, breeding, protection of vegetation, land plowing, supply of materials, dealing in such trades as collecting, purchasing and consuming products, and processing (depending on specific conditions, control some and not necessarily all tasks). At the same time, they should effectively manage technical bases.

— Take care of the public welfare and implement social policies toward those recipients of pension policies and those who are still living in difficulty.

Regarding these households, local authorities should be concerned with providing early guidance for shifting the contents and procedures of operation and quickly create new models conforming to the new management mechanism.

It is not advisable to maintain the same cooperatives' funds as they were before. When cooperatives and production collectives need to make new purchases to support production, members should be mobilized to make contributions.

The second type consists of those cooperatives and production collectives which still have a management committee, which have recently done some cooperative works and own a definite number of material bases, but in fact are no longer operating. Installations of this type should be reexamined in order to select the appropriate form and step.

Generally speaking, regarding this type, we must begin with technical service cooperation first in each task and then in many tasks and in the consumption of products. To reach this goal, if the scale of organization is small—like former production collectives—there will be some restrictions. As a result, it is necessary to select the proper scales in order to mobilize the assets, to establish requirements for materials and appropriate consumer goods, and to perform efficiently. (The scales involved may be the size of a hamlet with a few hundred hectares of cultivation land). The organization may take several forms, such as solidarity production teams or groups and teams of cooperation.

Caution must be taken not to use the self-management or hamlet people's committees to cover the collective economy and supersede the function of production and business.

Through this form of cooperation, we will develop the household economy and create more assets for cooperation and, on this basis, to advance gradually from cooperation in the supply-demand domain to cooperation in all domains of production.

The third type comprises the forms we organize through coercive measures. For this reason, these cooperatives and production collectives, in reality, practice the individual mode of production, no longer retain their their managerial apparatuses, and possess negligible material and technical bases. This kind of organization should be handled in the following way:

- We should turn land over to the peasant households and give them guidance in the organization of labor cooperation in various suitable forms such as work exchange teams, work rotation teams, and household groups.

- On the basis of the organization of labor cooperation, we should give guidance in water conservancy work and in application of production techniques to satisfactorily support the peasant households' production and business activities.

The village administration must give strict guidance and create all necessary conditions for peasant households to carry out production efficiently. For large villages and many hamlets, hamlet people's committees (this is not an administrative echelon) may be set up as an elective representative of the people entrusted by the village administration with administrative and socioeconomic management work at the hamlet level.

The hamlet people's committees will give guidance in water conservancy work and in material supply and technical services. When conditions permit, these committees will be elevated to a higher form of collective economic organization with popular consent to ensure high economic efficiency.

The localities should continue to experiment with these forms of organization and guide the building of model cooperatives, production collectives, or other forms of labor cooperation in keeping with the spirit of the resolution of the party Central Committee's Sixth Plenum. Experience should be constantly drawn upon to help improve these forms of organization step by step. By the end of 1990, we will make a preliminary review of the work. Party and administrative committees at all levels must do their utmost to encourage the grassroots units to create many appropriate forms of labor cooperation organizations themselves.

Concerning organizations and cadres, we must realize that agricultural cooperativization in the Mekong Delta provinces is a weighty, complex, task. Therefore, the local party committees must strengthen their organization to be able to assume this duty. In the immediate future, they should satisfactorily carry out the following tasks:

- Cadre work plays a decisive role in the agricultural cooperativization movement in the Mekong River Delta. For this reason, we must seek to know once again the number of cadres already trained in the past in order to reconsider their capabilities and motivate them to return to their work, thereby bringing into full play the usefulness of this contingent. If weaknesses are detected in any respect, short-term training courses should be held to equip these cadres with additional knowledge of managerial work under the new mechanism.

- Plans must be adopted for assignment of leading and managerial cadres to meet both immediate and long-term demands. These plans must take into account ethical norms, quality, managerial standards, and educational level.

On the basis of cadre assignment plans, we should formulate programs for the training of cadres, especially technical cadres. Along with training, we should study ways of implementing remunerative policies to enable cadres to work with confidence. In these policies, aside from wages or allowances, we must broadly apply the system of contract with households and production units of the state and collective economic sectors. At the same time, we must implement other policies such as the ones on study, work division, official assignments, and rewards and commendation in a rational fashion.

- The provinces should consolidate their school systems and improve the contents of curricula to suit the new requirements. In the immediate future, they should first organize short-term training courses. Cadre training funds must be drawn from the budget of the local administration. With those provincial schools managed by the provincial agricultural services or by the local party organization's economic department, funding will be decided by the provincial party committee's standing committee.

Strongly, comprehensively, and steadily developing agriculture in the Mekong River Delta to match the region's considerable potential and important position in the country is an urgent demand, a monumental long-term undertaking, and an ardent wish of every one of us.

To fulfill this task, the leadership of every party committee echelon, the guidance of the state, and the efficient operation of all mass organizations must be strengthened to create, first of all, a new moving force and then to release the massive productive force of the nearly 12 million peasants in the Mekong River Delta and direct it toward this undertaking.

Actively resolving the land problem and the cooperativization issue in accordance with Political Bureau Resolution 10 and the Resolutions of the party Central Committee's Sixth and Seventh Plenums constitutes the first step in this direction but is extremely important.

Chairman Do Muoi Receives Norwegian Ambassador

BK3001030890 Hanoi VNA in English 1545 GMT 28 Jan 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA Jan 29—Chairman of the Council of Ministers Do Muoi has received here Norwegian Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary Johan Henrik Dahl, who paid him a courtesy visit.

The Vietnamese leader had a cordial conversation with his guest.

Australia

Evans on Technical Team's Mission to Cambodia

BK3001081590 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0803 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Australia is sending an expert group on a fact-finding mission to Cambodia as part of the proposal for a United Nations administered peace settlement. The main features of the peace plan proposed by Australia have already been endorsed by the five permanent members of the United Nations and have been supported by the main factions involved in the conflict, as diplomatic correspondent Stuart Heather reports:

[Begin recording] [Heather] (?With) information from the government in Phnom Penh and the opposition factions, the fact-finding mission will gather information on political and administrative structures and assess the infrastructure available to a United Nation administration. It will also assess the practical requirements of holding UN-supervised elections and obtained information on the technical and administrative problems of UN involvement in an international peacekeeping force.

The Australian mission follows a United Nations group which looked at specific UN monitoring issues in a visit to Cambodia last August. Australia's foreign minister, Senator Gareth Evans, says the Australian technical mission will visit as much of Cambodia, including the Thai-Cambodia border area, as time and circumstances permit. Senator Evans says he has been encouraged to send the mission by all the key players Australia has consulted in recent weeks.

However, Senator Evans says arrangements are not finalized for the group's contact with the Khmer Rouge [KR] faction which controls much of northwest Cambodia. In a news conference in Canberra's Parliament House, the foreign minister was asked how much cooperation he expects from the Khmer Rouge:

[Evans] It remains to be seen how much we get, and I won't pre-judge that. We would hope to get a reasonable amount because what is obviously involved is getting a sense not only of the administrative needs on the ground in the large percentage of the country that is controlled by the Phnom Penh-Hun Sen administration, but also, if there is to be an effective settlement, it also has to address the situation in the border areas and the KR [words indistinct] in particular. So, to get a full picture we will need KR cooperation. We have just got to wait and see how much is forthcoming. I cannot predict that at this stage.

[Unidentified questioner] Is KR among the players you mentioned who have encouraged you to undertake this mission?

[Evans] No, I would not go so far as to say they have encouraged us, but nor have they discouraged us. I do not want to go into any detail at all about the reaction of individual players to the Australian initiative and the endless series of consultations we have been having. We have maintained up until now the principle that keeping absolutely quiet about the details of these things is by far the best way to move the process forward.

[Heather] The Australian technical mission to Cambodia is expected to complete its visit by mid-February. Senator Evans says the timing will be tight, but he hopes the mission will be able to make a constructive contribution to the forthcoming meetings on Cambodia to be held in Jakarta by the factions and regional nations and in New York by the permanent five members of the UN Security Council.

[Evans] We are working right now on a more comprehensive development of the kinds of ideas that may be involved here. What you are seeing in the public discussion of this and in the communique of the Paris permanent five and so on is only a very small tip of an iceberg in terms of the ideas and the scenarios that are now under discussion. And all of them, when you get down to the detail of working out something which is practical, and viable, and affordable, need rather more hard information about the situation on the ground—the administrative structures and so on—than is presently in existence.

I am not suggesting, I repeat, that this mission of ours will supply all the answers to those innumerable problems. But hopefully, it will enable us to be more confident about getting at least the basic design parameters right.

[Heather] Australia's foreign minister, Senator Gareth Evans.

The Australian technical mission to Cambodia will be headed by a senior officer in the Foreign Affairs Department, Dr Robert Merrillees. [end recording]

Solomon Islands

Australian Military Presence Foreseen in Pacific

BK2901092890 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 29 Jan 90

[Text] The leader of the opposition in the Solomon Islands has warned that the current crisis on the island of Bougainville will have a radical influence on Australia's military and diplomatic policies in the Pacific region.

Speaking in Honiara, Mr Andrew Nori said that unless a political solution could be found to solve the crisis between Bougainville secessionist rebels and the authorities in Port Moresby, there is a good chance Australia could become militarily involved.